

## Arms follow killings in Salvador

The people of San Antonio Abad, a slum on the edge of San Salvador, have been talking about men who wear army uniforms and who come to slaughter them in the early hours. On their last visit to the slum 19 civilians were killed. Only hours later, in Washington, it was announced that the United States is to send \$55m (£29.4m) worth of emergency military equipment to El Salvador.

## Theatres to cut back

Arts Council subsidises this year for the four national theatres, opera and ballet companies will average 10 per cent, which is below the inflation level. The companies said they would have to cut back on productions and repertory.

## S Africa press curb scheme

Control of journalists through compulsory registration is proposed in a report tabled in South Africa's Parliament. There would be provision for "striking off" the register, and using the work of an unenrolled journalist would be illegal.

## Israel publishes autonomy plan

Israel has officially published its proposals for a Palestinian council to administer the West Bank and Gaza. It envisages an authority with powers in 13 spheres, including finance and justice, in contrast to the Egyptian desire to see a council with legislative as well as executive functions.

## Assembly plan for Ulster

The Government is planning an elected assembly for Northern Ireland which would have only advisory or consultative powers until agreement could be reached on a more devolved administration.

## Hammaraskjold death claim

Moise Tshombe, the former Prime Minister of the Congo, was responsible for the death of Dag Hammarskjöld, according to Francis Bodenan, who is accused of kidnapping Mr. Tshombe. Mr. Hammarskjöld died in the wreckage of an aircraft in 1961 while Secretary-General of the United Nations.

## £10m a week petrol 'subsidy'

The cost of a gallon of 4-star petrol in some towns has dropped below £1.50p as the price war heats up. The petrol makers, however, are counting the cost, paying almost £10m a week in support measures.



## Bristol youths in court

Eight youths arrested after the fighting in St Paul's, Bristol, at the weekend appeared before Bristol magistrates. They denied possessing offensive weapons, wounding, assaulting a police sergeant, and other charges.

## Botham's protest

Botham, in hiring a century for England, threatened to walk off the field in protest against Indian delaying tactics in the Test match in Kanpur.

Leader page 11  
Letters: On union legislation, from Mr. Walter Goldsmith; Ulster, from Professor Cornelius O'Leary, and Mr. D. H. Young

Leading articles: SDP leadership; Long-distance footpaths. Features, pages 8 and 10. How university cuts hurt everyone, by Randolph Quirk; Divorce: Why should a wife be the loser? The archbishop co-starred with Callas. Obituary, page 12. Lord Ritchie-Calder, Sir John Foster, Sir Randolph Peters

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# Bank joins in campaign to cut US loan rates

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, last night joined in the campaign to make America cut its interest rates. In a speech to the annual dinner of the Overseas Bankers Club in London, he said that the two main consequences of American policy were causing concern throughout the world.

These were that too much of the strain of the fight against inflation was being borne by monetary policy and not enough by cuts in the public deficit. The second was that interest rates in America were likely to be very volatile. As a result, he said, foreign exchange and domestic business could be harmed.

The Governor's speech is the latest chapter in what is turning into an increasingly intense war of words between Europe and America. Last week, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Finance Ministers of France and Germany all called on the Reagan Administration to change economic policy to help the rest of the world.

Leading United States banks yesterday began raising interest rates, a move that provoked a sharp decline in share prices on Wall Street, while boosting the value of the dollar.

Dollar interest rates in Europe rose yesterday, strengthening the dollar against all European currencies. Shares on Wall Street fell sharply as two leading banks raised their prime lending rates.

The European nations want to get their interest rates down to boost jobs in their economies. But they fear that if they act alone their currencies will fall and inflation will rise.

They are thus trying to press the Americans to take part in joint action to bring interest rates down everywhere.

At the Ottawa economic summit last summer, the European leaders said that the Americans could not expect them to put up with high interest rates after Christmas.

The issue will become increasingly important as a dominant feature in preparations for the world economic summit to be held in France in June.

Mr Richardson's call for the United States to use whatever scope exists to moderate the impact overseas of its policies came as part of a call for greater currency stability. The fluctuation of the world's currency markets was now posing great dangers to world trade, he said.

## Owner vanishes in lost ships mystery

By Peter Evans and Mario Modiano

Investigators from the International Maritime Bureau, London, are looking for cargo reported to have been mysteriously off-loaded from a Greek-owned ship, the Viki K, before she sailed in the Red Sea.

The Viki K's hull was insured on the London market for up to £1m. She is one of eight freighters acquired by Mr Demetrios Kavadas, the second to be lost and the rest are reported to be in trouble.

Mr Kavadas has also disappeared. He was seen at his luxurious seaside home at Glyfada, near Athens, leaving behind total debts estimated at £4m, and Mrs Kavadas says she does not know where he is.

Mr Kavadas was sentenced by a Greek court in his absence last Friday to three years' imprisonment, and fined one million drachmas (£10,000) for issuing a bogus cheque for \$76,000.

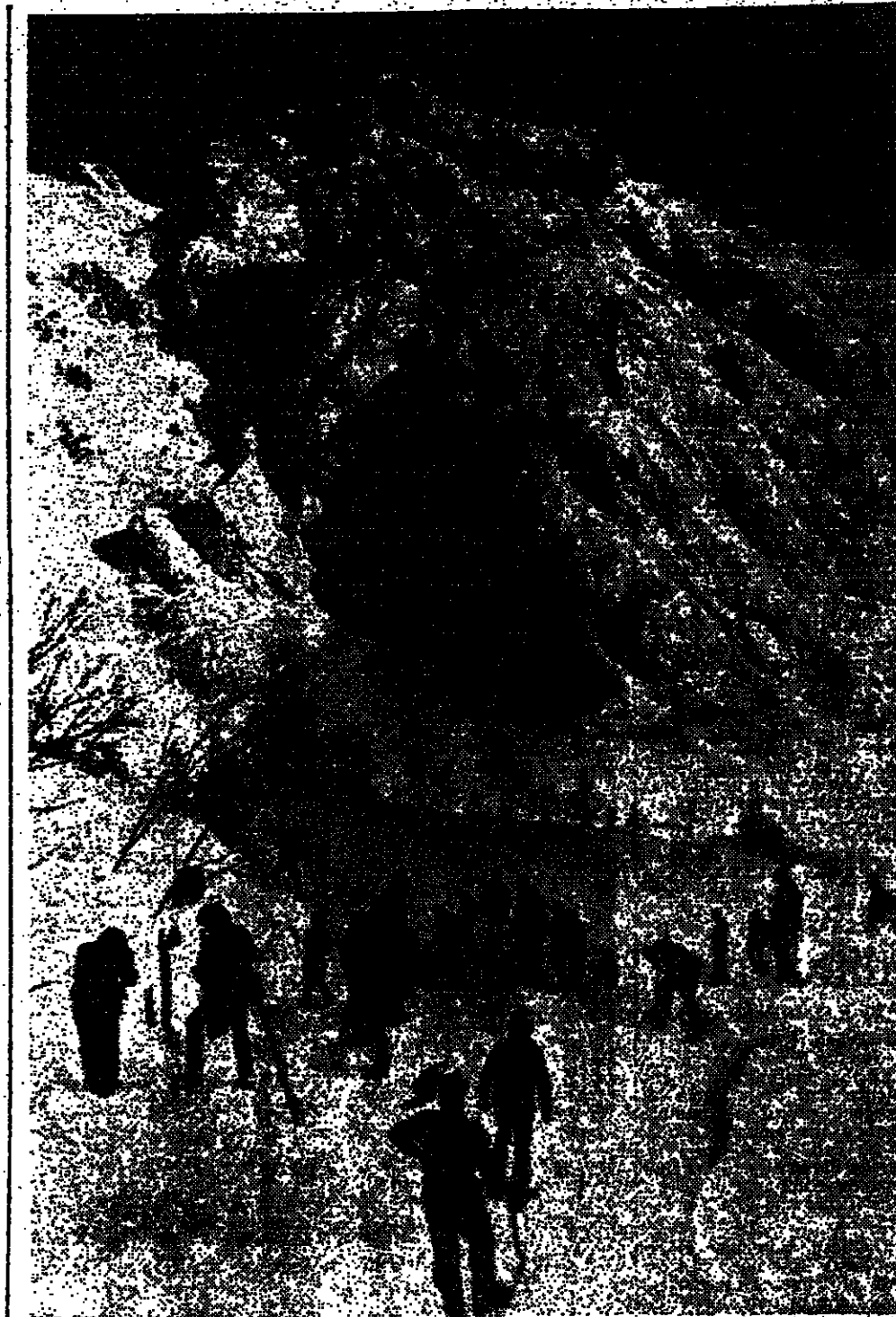
The Court of Appeal is expected to give judgment this week on issues arising in a different case involving the Sarnia, the tanker scuttled by its owners to disguise the fact that they had sold its \$56m cargo of oil to the South African government. The shipowners, Oxford Shipping, have also disappeared.

The investigation into the Viki K coincides with the loss of the Elphink K on December 24, while taking 3,000 tons of iron rods worth more than £400,000 from Elefsis, Greece, to Alexandria. The Piraeus harbour police also want Kavadas for questioning.

The Viki K, which was carrying angle iron and plastic products to Iran, was abandoned by her crew in the Red Sea on November 2. The owner's story, which emerged during the insurers' investigation, was that the crew tried for hours to put out a fire in the engine room.

On the same day all 16 crew were picked up by the MV Elise Danube, a local coaster, and taken to the port of Eilat in Israel.

Lloyd's agent in Port Said has confirmed that at least part of the cargo was unloaded there after Mr Eric Ellen, the bureau's chief, said inquiries continued on page 2, col 1.



## Boy found dead under 16 feet

Dogs were used to help 150 rescuers yesterday (above) find the thirteenth and last victim of the avalanche at Werfenweng, near Salzburg, which buried a party of 18 young West German skiers on the 4,600ft Elmau mountain. The boy, Oliver Jensen, was found under 16ft of snow. One youth who was able to struggle free after the avalanche called the rescuers who pulled out the other four survivors. Avalanches here killed about 800 people in Austria in the last 20 years.

## SDP fear unequal seat deal

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Leading members of the Social Democratic Party, decided yesterday that they are getting the worst of the bargain so far in the sharing of parliamentary seats with the Liberals.

Rises in food prices, or the way in which they were announced, led to the overthrow of Mr Wladyslaw Gomułka in 1970, almost toppled his successor Mr Edward Giersek in 1976, and contributed to the rapid growth of Solidarity in 1980.

Tension this time was heightened by the violent clashes between students and police in Gdansk on Saturday night. Fresh details of the disturbances are beginning to emerge.

According to an independent account, the militia were relatively restrained at first, but when the demonstrators grouped in the main square near the party headquarters, the scene of great violence in 1970, the militia and riot police moved in with considerable force, using rubber truncheons. The demonstrators responded with bricks and bottles.

The official Ministry of Interior communiqué said that 205 people had been detained and 14 civilians and eight policemen injured. Independent accounts put the figure higher, talking of forty to fifty injured.

The official media have presented the Gdansk incident with a degree of candour but they have included clear warnings. First, the blame has been placed on the United States Administration and its Solidarity Day which coincided with the Saturday protest.

Second, implicit in this commentary, and one in *Trybuna*, *Ludzie* was the signal to the rest of the country not to imitate Gdansk, otherwise the strictest martial law regulations would be restored.

The authorities have not been taking any risks. The Gdansk shipyards have been closed from today: all workers have been sent on two weeks' holiday, officially because of the death of orders.

This, and not the United States Solidarity Day, was the most likely explanation for the timing of the Gdansk protest. It was the last opportunity to appeal to the collective work-force.

Early this morning the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw was also shut and factory officials said that repairs were being carried out. Other probable strike hotspots have remained shut today, though, from official reports it seems that the mines were working normally.

Unofficial reports reaching Warsaw indicated that planned strikes in cities such as Wroclaw and Lodz had been carried out. It is extremely difficult to police this form of industrial action though in the long run it seems to be unpopular with workers who are paid on piece rate.

The price rises seemed to have made some impact on the queues in front of meat shops. The dangerous period for the authorities—certainly in their own estimation—will be later this week when students return to universities.

Meanwhile, the Episcopate has sent a letter to the Government complaining that it was not allowed to give mass to Mr Lech Walesa, the interned Solidarity leader.

Mr Edward Giersek, a former Polish minister and a First Secretary of Katowice, died of a heart attack on Saturday, aged 58, according to the state's official notice in *Trybuna*. *Ludzie*.

## Poland tense as food prices quadruple

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 1

Food price increases of up to 400 per cent in Poland were marked today by go-slows in many industrial plants, compulsory closure of a number of factories and signs of extreme nervousness on the part of the authorities.

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He confirmed that the company was under strong pressure for payment from a number of suppliers. About £1m was more than 30 days overdue for settlement and another £5m was about 30 days overdue. The Government owed the company £10m for firebomb damage last year. "If we had that now, even with a commitment that if the final amount proved less the Government could take back the difference, it would keep us working."

He insisted that his interest in the company was not financial. In the past nine years his loss of income because of the enterprise had been considerable. "My income with perks and stock options and miscellaneous items at General Motors was close to \$1m (£500,000) a year, and that goes back to 1972. I am now working for a fraction of that."

## New rail peace move by Murray

By a Staff Reporter

Mr. Len Murray, general secretary of the RMT, last night made another attempt to find a basis for a peace formula to end the train drivers' dispute when he spent three hours with the executives of the drivers' union.

There was little indication from Mr Murray or officials of the Association of Railwaymen, Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) of what transpired, but observers believed that Mr Murray was trying to persuade the union to participate in a "commission" of inquiry.

Another plea for the two sides to go to arbitration came from Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, who said on BBC Radio 4 that the British Rail and Aslef were both "dig in about ten feet deep". The only solution was arbitration. "But neither will go."

He attacked the Labour Party's support for Aslef as "an abuse of authority". "When you make agreements you cannot pick and choose which of them to apply," Mr Weighell said.

Sir John Boyd, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, also called on British Rail and Aslef to go to arbitration.

The commission of inquiry is the idea of Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), and the other two rail unions, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, already agreed to take part in it.

The Aslef executive might decide today whether to co-operate.

The executive is also due to discuss plans for industrial action next week and whether to carry out a series of go-slows in the next few days, or two-day go-slows on Wednesday and Thursday.

The BR board is also due to meet today and it is thought that Aslef will not escalate the action unless the management signals a hardening of attitudes in this dispute.

Mr Murray's meeting with the Aslef executives came as local management on Southern Region decided not to pay guards for the weekend and to cancel the strike in protest at Sunday's lay-off.

Southern Region trains were expected to be back to normal at midnight as striking guards at Brighton returned to work. BR said last night.

About 25 trains were cancelled during the evening rush hour because of the guards' action.

## FO falls foul of the testy general

From David Watts, Manila, Feb 1

Lord Carrington's visit to the Philippines began with a bizarre diplomatic dispute today which threatened to sour the trip barely before it had started.

The Foreign Secretary, arriving at the home of General Carlos Romulo, the veteran Filipino Minister, complimented him on his beautiful home and soon found himself trying to defend himself against complaints that he had allowed Filipino hospitality to get the better of him. Ambassador rather than the official guest house.

Lord Carrington and the official party were shaken by General Romulo's criticism of the Foreign Secretary's visit. Telling Lord Carrington that he was the seventh foreign minister to be entertained in his 14 years of office General Romulo sat down on the veranda overlooking the lush garden in exclusive Forbes Park and declared: "You are the only foreign minister to stay at your embassy. All the others have stayed at our official guest house, the Malacañan Palace."

The Foreign Secretary, taken aback, recovered quickly to say: "As you know, General, on these trips a foreign minister is just a guest to be posted by his officials."

"I'm very sorry that there was a mistake..." said Lord Carrington.

Then I take it it is your Ambassador who is critical of these trips a foreign minister is just a guest to be posted by his officials."

The unfortunate British Ambassador, who then reminded General Romulo that they had both been in the Philippines for 14 years, said: "I am very sorry that there was a mistake..."

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## I was wrong to launch a Belfast firm, says De Lorean

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 1

Mr John De Lorean said today he had made a serious mistake in launching his sports car company in Belfast. "We had a terrible time producing a management team because Englishmen would not work there. We are greatly under-estimated the magnitude of the problems."

Among the problems was the fact that the company's premises had been fire-bombed 140 times and company executives had been fired at by snipers many times. Trying to keep a management team together under those circumstances, especially of people who are good enough to work anywhere, is difficult."

But Mr De Lorean added that he was determined to make the company survive. He was selling his ranch in California and other personal interests to inject private capital into the enterprise.

He was negotiating with several concerns in an attempt to raise private means to help the company out of its cash flow crisis. "It is impossible to continue as a Government-owned company because we have become such a political hot potato," he said. "Nobody dares touch it."

Mr De Lorean, speaking to *The Times* at his Park Avenue office in New York, insisted that with the right financial backing his firm could again be employing 2,700 people by the spring, when he expected car sales to pick up.

He attributed the company's problems to a number of factors; one of the worst winters in the United States that affected sales, delays by the British Government that



Mr De Lorean: Factory fire-bombed 140 times.

meant he lost a possible opportunity to issue public shares on Wall Street, lack of export credit guarantees, had publicity that had tarnished the product's image and the firebomb attacks on the plant in Dummurry, West Belfast.

He confirmed that the company was under strong pressure for payment from a number of suppliers. About £1m was more than 30 days overdue for settlement and another £5m was about 30 days overdue. The Government owed the company £10m for firebomb damage last year. "If we had that now, even with a commitment that if the final amount proved less the Government could take back the difference, it would keep us working."

He insisted that his interest in the company was not financial. In the past nine years his loss of income because of the enterprise had been considerable. "My income with perks and stock options and miscellaneous items at General Motors was close to \$1m (£500,000) a year, and that goes back to 1972. I am now working for a fraction of that."

He said it had been a mistake to allow the Northern Ireland Development Agency "to talk me into" launching the company in Belfast. "People keep talking about the deal and financial arrangement we made. We did not negotiate anything. All we did was accept what was offered. There was no negotiation at all."

His primary concern was the devastation that closure of the plant would mean to West Belfast.

He had encountered many local problems that required complex and difficult solutions. A firebomb attack destroyed many vital and

Continued on back page, col 1

# ILSO

## Diary

At the Royal Festival Hall, Monday 8 February 8.00

SEITZEN  
First Concert  
Chopin  
Piano Concerto No. 2  
Brahms  
Symphonies Nos. 1 and 2  
Newell Macmillan, Conductor  
£20.00 £10.00 £5.00  
£3.00 £2.00 £1.00  
Sponsored by Royal Festival Hall  
Friday 19 February 8.00  
BRAHMS  
Double Concerto  
TCHAIKOVSKY  
Symphony No. 5  
Oleg Kagan, Violin  
Mikhail Gostman, Cello  
Vladimir Spivakov, Conductor  
£20.00 £10.00 £5.00  
£3.00 £2.00 £1.00  
Sponsored by Royal Festival Hall

At the Royal Festival Hall, Monday 22 February 8.00  
TCHAIKOVSKY  
The Queen of Spades Overture  
TCHAIKOVSKY  
John Coates  
ELGAR  
Symphony No. 2  
Valery Kilmoy, Violin  
Vladimir Spivakov, Conductor  
£20.00 £10.00 £5.00  
£3.00 £2.00 £1.00  
Sponsored by Royal Festival Hall

At the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, Saturday 27th February 8.00  
Rimsky-Korsakov Overture 'Le Coq d'Or'  
Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2  
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4  
Howard Shelley, Piano  
Leslie Tye, Conductor  
£5.00 £3.50 £2.00 £1.00  
Tickets: Box Office (01) 888 9291



# Elected assembly planned for Northern Ireland

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Government is considering an elected assembly for Northern Ireland which would be given only advisory or consultative powers until agreement could be reached on a more fully devolved administration.

One idea for developing the system, according to Official Unionists who met Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday, is for a weighted majority in the assembly. That would mean that a majority would have to agree before any further progress could be made on giving the assembly more powers.

The figure being suggested for the weighted majority is 70 per cent, which has been criticized as far too high. It is believed that Mr Prior has ruled out institutionalized power-sharing, preferring to leave all decisions on the future development of the system to an assembly of 78 members, which it is proposed will be elected by proportional representation in the autumn.

Mr Harold McCusker, Official Unionist MP for Antrim, said: "My objection is that I don't like an arbitrary figure being set. Seventy per cent is almost unobtainable."

Mr Prior's plans are not yet complete and he will continue talking to politicians until he puts definite proposals to the

Cabinet before announcing his initiative, probably next month. Although officials at the Northern Ireland Office continue to say that all the suggestions being talked about are speculation, there is no doubt that Mr Prior's favoured option is what has become known as "rolling devolution".

Initially, members of the assembly will be able to advise and discuss draft legislation, but it will then be up to them to decide if they can reach agreement on a second stage, which would bring further responsibility to the assembly for Northern Ireland affairs.

In the province there is general agreement on the preliminary stage of Mr Prior's proposal. The Official Unionists, who will contest any election for an assembly but will make sure it does not "roll in a dangerous direction". But the move to a second stage is much more contentious.

Whatever powers were essentially returned to an assembly, it is almost inconceivable that in the near future security would be returned to a devolved administration. However, it is thought that on some social and economic issues a wide measure of agreement could be reached and the 70 per cent hurdle cleared.

Although Mr Prior is understood not to have a tight time-

table, there is obviously the next general election in Britain to consider and he and his officials will be aware that the power-sharing experiment broke down in part because a general election was held before it had a chance to prove itself.

It is also being noted cynically among some politicians in the province that it is unlikely that Mr Prior will still be at the Northern Ireland Office if a Conservative Administration is returned to power because the normal time scale for a Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is roughly two and a half years.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, returned from Northern Ireland today after a short fact-finding visit in which his talks were dominated by unemployment and Ulster's constitutional position.

During nine hours of talks yesterday, Mr Foot saw leaders of the main political parties and trade unionists.

In the Irish Republic, police chiefs last night expressed delight over arms and explosives finds in the border area. The haul included a big booby-trap bomb hidden at a roadside on the Monaghan-Fermanagh border, rifles, mortar bombs, blast bombs and more than 50,000 rounds of ammunition. Primed rockets were found

## Countryman case officers deny planting evidence

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Incriminating evidence linking two men to an armed bank robbery was planted on them by four London detectives, who then concocted a false version of an interview with one of the men, a Central Criminal Court jury heard yesterday. Later three of the officers extracted £5,000 from two other men for "framing" them in the same way.

The four officers pleaded not guilty to charges brought against them as a result of investigations by Operation Countryman. The four men are: Inspector Terence Babbage, aged 38, of Uxbridge, Middlesex; Det. Sergeant John David Ross, aged 34, of Orpington, Kent; Det. Constable Michael Bradley Ross, his brother, aged 31, of Bromley, Kent; and Det. Constable Paul Rextrew, aged 28, of Croydon, south London.

All four are charged with perverting the course of justice in 1977 by planting evidence against Mr John Twomey and Mr Patrick Carpenter after an armed robbery at a bank in Bayswater, west London, and falsely claiming articles had been found and verbal admissions made.

Constable Rextrew and Constable Michael Ross are charged with two counts of

demanding and receiving £15,000. They and Sergeant John Ross also face two similar counts involving Mr Thomas Green. Mr Babbage is charged with making a false statement involving Mr Twomey.

Mr John Blofield, QC, for the prosecution, said that the policemen, all detectives at the time of the alleged offences, were dealing with men with records of serious crime who were suspected by them of fresh offences. When the interview with Mr Twomey was written up "they put words in his mouth".

Counsel said: "The officers involved extracted payments from two other men with criminal records who have no love for the police."

Mr Blofield said Mr Twomey, Mr Carpenter, Mr Stephens and Mr Green would be giving evidence. It was possible that people with criminal records would have no love for the police.

The jury, Mr Blofield said, would also be hearing another side of the story. There might be police witnesses among whom there could be those who were "heavily cross-examined" in his desire to tell you all he knows.

The case continues today.

## Trail of unpaid debts and stranded crews

Continued from page 1

referred to photographs allegedly showing the ship being unloaded by floating crane.

The bureau is representing the Iranian owners of the cargo, said to be worth more than £1m. Mr John Crosby, one of the bureau's investigators, is now in Port Said, to check what was unloaded.

Because of the Elipinki K's disappearance, action is also being taken against Kavadas by Ergolou, a Greek bank, which told the Piraeus prosecutor on January 19: "We suspect the cargo was sold in Lebanon."

The bank decided to sue Kavadas's front company, Seaport Navigation, because the vanished ship Elipinki K had been used as collateral to obtain a £100,000 loan in March, 1980.

Kavadas is listed as managing director of Seaport Navigation, which has 99 per cent of the shares and his wife Dimitra 1 per cent.

Mr Ellen's investigations revealed that the Viki K, registered as the Poseidon before 1971 and the Solidarity between 1971 and 1980, was owned by the Tivodim Company SA, but registered by the Greek shipping company Viki Shipping Co, Piraeus. Both companies were operated by Kavadas.

Kavadas, a former sea captain who turned up in Piraeus as shipowner three or four years ago, has left a troubled trail of unpaid debts, insurance woe and angry crews in his wake.

The Natalia is arrested in Morocco, for debts of £40,000, some owed to oil companies. The crew of 11 Greeks and 12 others had to sell their personal belongings to survive until they could be repatriated.

The Stavroula K is stranded in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The Yannaoula K left Karachi on November 15 with military stores for Libya and manure for the Emirates. Both crews were left high and dry.

The Cephalonian Sun is impounded in Tartous, Syria, for debts while the captain, Manolis Vihos, is still waiting for back pay of £2,700.

The Despoula K also in debt is reported to have been towed out of harbour and anchored off Monrovia, Liberia.

The Dimitra K has been arrested at Chittagong, Bangladesh, for debts of £10,000 for debts. The crew of 10 Greeks were said to be in a pitiful condition when repatriated on tickets sent by the Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine. £4m estimated debt is to insurers, ship's chandlers, oil companies, banks, other ship-owners and his crew.

## BL's Sherpa first in UK with gas conversion.

The advantages of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) are well-known to the Transport Industry.

But until recently, no major UK manufacturer has been able to offer users of light/medium vans the chance to use LPG.

BL's Freight Rover subsidiary is now marketing an LPG conversion for Sherpa Vans made by Land-Rover (UK) Ltd.

market-leaders in this specialised field.

The system more than meets BL's own strict safety requirements.

It will cut fuel bills by at least 10% and reduce engine wear.

Conversions can be arranged at any Sherpa dealer.

BL Fightingback

## Guarantees upheld, editor says

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Frank Giles, editor of The Sunday Times, last night denied that his editorial independence had been infringed by recent executive appointments on the newspaper and said he had no intention of referring the matter to the five independent national directors of The Times and The Sunday Times.

Mr Giles's statement came after News International, on behalf of Times Newspapers, released the text of the letter from Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, giving the reasons for his refusal to intervene in the dispute. Mr Biffen said the question of a breach of editorial independence was "essentially a matter for Mr Giles himself to determine".

The National Union of Journalists' chapel (office branch) on The Sunday Times has claimed that recent changes of senior staff were instigated by Mr Rupert Murdoch, owner of the newspaper, not by Mr Giles, and hence breached guarantees given when Mr Murdoch bought the newspaper last year. The guarantees have been written into the articles of association.

Mr Biffen's letter, addressed to Mr Peter Wilby, father (chairman) of the chapel at The Sunday Times, reads:

"Thank you for your letter of January 21. It is true that a number of conditions attached to my consent to transfer of The Sunday Times were 'free-standing', and a breach of them (which would be a breach of the contract) would be a matter in which RMC had direct concern."

Such conditions included a requirement that certain provisions relating to the rights of the editor of the two newspapers were to be incorporated in the articles of association of Times Newspapers Limited—and the necessary changes in the articles were indeed made.

However, any dispute concerning the rights of the editors (as specified in my conditions) falls to be determined by the independent national directors, and I have no locus in such a dispute.

This reflects my desire to establish a legal framework which would provide adequate guarantees for the rights of the editor. But I was equally anxious to avoid unwarranted governmental interference in the affairs of the newspaper and this did not mean assuming responsibility for policing the day-to-day operations of this newspaper."

If Mr Giles considers that the dismissal of Mr Ron Hall (editor of The Sunday Times colour magazine) was effected without his consent, it is open to him to refer the matter for determination by the independent national directors in accordance with the company's articles. I would have told him, if it would appear that the editor did consent in this case. However, this is essentially a matter for Mr Giles himself to determine.

If you have any evidence that the free-standing conditions attached to my consent have been breached, I would be happy to receive such evidence. But on the basis of what you say in your letter, I do not consider a meeting would be profitable."

Mr Wilby said last night that the dispute had exposed shortcomings in the guarantees. "The editor is under a lot of conflicting pressures and if he feels unable to assert his independence against the proprietor, then it seems there is no redress. That is very disappointing."

Mr Giles said he did not consider his independence had been infringed. "I therefore have no need or intention to refer the matter to the national directors."

## Remand in rape case

A man aged 44 appeared before Middlesbrough magistrates in Suffolk yesterday charged with raping a girl hitch-hiker, aged 17, the wife of an American serviceman, eight days ago near Barton Mills. The man, who said nothing during the three-minute hearing, was remanded in custody for seven days.

## Boy who beat the odds goes home for his birthday



Frank Weyrauch, with his mother, at the Harley Street clinic: He made the choice.

## Heart surgeons advance

By Thomas Stuttaford, Medical Correspondent

Surgeons at London's Harley Street Clinic have made a significant advance in open-heart surgery in a nine-hour operation on a West German boy, Frank Weyrauch, aged 13, from Cologne.

His mother, Frau Sofia Weyrauch, had been unable to find a German surgeon willing to operate. "A British paediatric surgical team, having seen carefully prepared German data, estimated the chances of success were small."

But the boy made his own decision to take the risk, and yesterday he left the clinic breathing normally and fit for all the usual activities of a 13-year-old including a boisterous birthday party planned for tomorrow. Before the operation he could not take part in school games, swim, climb stairs or ride a bicycle and at night he could only breathe if he was propped up.

Mr Jaroslav Stark, cardiac surgeon at Great Ormond Street, who led the operating team, told me yesterday that the boy's main problem was a corrected transposition, which was complicated by a complete aorticotricuspid canal and other multiple abnormalities.

In the operation Mr Stark created a septum between the ventricles. They are separated by two and closed the defect in the wall between the two ventricles.

He created two valves connecting the aorta to the ventricles where previously there had only been one. That was probably the most intricate part of the surgery and the efficiency of those valves will be monitored carefully in the future.

A normal heart has four chambers, two collecting, the aorta, and two pumping, the ventricles. They are separated by valves. A septum is the name given to the wall between the two ventricles.

Very often if there is an abnormality in the great vessels of the heart, there is often a compensatory mechanism, a so-called corrected transposition. Trouble arises, as in the German boy's case, when there are associated abnormalities.

Mrs Weyrauch spoke yesterday of her relief and was full of admiration for the care she had received from Mr Stark, Dr Tony Richards, the cardiologist, and the medical and nursing staff. The boy is the only child of a one-parent family, which meant the decision to operate had caused Mr Weyrauch great personal anxiety.

Indirectly the decision will have far reaching effects by extending the scope of cardiac surgery.

It is also thought that the German Heart Association (Deutsche Herz Hilfe) will now send further heart cases for operation in London.

Cardiac surgery has always been international and the boy could be a better example of this than a Czech-born surgeon assisted by an English cardiologist operating on a German boy in a London hospital.

In the present case no cost was borne by the National Health Service. Exact figures are not available, but the total cost to the German Heart Association and to Mrs Weyrauch was thought to be about £6,000.

## How a dying girl's cries went unremarked

By Tony Samstag

It was almost impossible to tell on Friday night that anything out of the ordinary was going on.

Mr Robert Wareham, who lives at 25 Fermanin Court, was one tenant who until recently had been in the habit of "calling the police all the time, for the slightest thing."

If it was not children running and shouting until well after one am, it was the traffic in stolen cars in the desolate area behind his flat: the cars would be driven into the area in the early morning hours, cannibalized for parts, and smashed up. Mr Wareham had also complained more than once of youths smoking marijuana down the hall.

Partly as a result of those complaints, the police had instituted regular patrols on the estate, he told The Times yesterday. He had assumed that the patrols were operating on Friday night, when he was "woken up by terrible shouting and the sounds of more than one person running under my bedroom window, up and down the lawn."

He was used to hearing such sounds nearly every night, he continued. "But this time they

kept me awake for half an hour. I don't think I slept 15 minutes that night. I could hear the pitch of the girl's voice going higher. 'Help, help' and then one last scream like 'eee...', and then everything went dead."

Mr Wareham said that when the screaming stopped he assumed it was just another domestic row. "Sometimes they go on for hours, throwing furniture, breaking windows and everything." After learning of the girl's death he had been sick all day, he added.

It was in one of several alcoves built into the block that the body was found.

Tenants who live directly above that alcove say they heard nothing at all on the ordinary night on Friday night.

Mrs Yvonne Maule, of number 44, thought she might have heard a voice saying, "Get here!" like a man calling his dog. The sounds Mr Wareham described "would have woken the whole block up," she said.

Would she have called the police, in that case? Certainly. "That could have been my own kid, she's eighteen." But in any case, "the police are not very quick in getting around

## Dole and wages ratio lowest for 30 years

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

The Government confirmed last night that unemployment benefit had reached its lowest point compared with wages for 30 years. New figures also showed that benefit cuts over the past two years had reduced the value of unemployment benefit by £216 a week for a married couple and £132 for a single person.

The figures were given in written parliamentary answers, but had been published in The Times last week. At the time the Department of Health and Social Security confirmed their accuracy but declined to make them official.

The written answers said the figures were provisional. But they confirmed that when benefits were increased last November, unemployment benefit for a single person was worth 17.5 per cent of average earnings of male manual workers, and 28.3 per cent for a married couple.

Those proportions were the lowest at any benefit uprating since August, 1951, when the single person's benefit was worth 15.9 per cent of male manual earnings and the married couple's benefit was worth 25.7 per cent.

Comparisons based on average earnings for all adult males have been available only since 1971.

## Big four theatre companies face cuts

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The four national theatre, opera and ballet companies will have to cut down on new productions and repertory as a result of an increase in the Arts Council subsidy for 1982-83, which averages 10 per cent less than inflation.

The Royal Shakespeare Company, which wanted an increase of 30 per cent and has received 17.6 per cent, described the increase as "disappointing" and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, said it would have to cut one new production in the coming year.

In its announcement, the Arts Council pointed out that while its total grant from the Government for its revenue clients had shown a 9 per cent increase, the four national companies would receive 10 per cent on average.

The Royal Opera House will receive £9.55m, an increase of 8.3 per cent, to support the company's Royal Ballet and Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in London and on tour. The English National Opera's subsidy will be £4.9m—an increase of 8.3 per cent, for its work at the Coliseum Theatre and The Other Place, and its first season in its new London home at the Barbican Theatre and The Pit.

Additional funds will be available to enable the ENO, the National Theatre and the RSC to tour.

Although the RSC has done better than the other national companies, it said the subsidy was "inadequate" given the current assessment of other sources of income. Last week Mr Trevor Nunn, joint artistic director, who is now in the United States, said that if they received less than a 30 per cent increase, they would be unable to continue the organization in its present scale and shape. It would plunge them deeper into trouble, he added, since the company was likely to end the current year with its worst-ever deficit.

Sir John Tooley, general director of the Royal Opera House, said it was inevitable they would lose one new opera production.

## DOCTORS INVOLVED IN FRAUD

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

The fraud squad is investigating allegations of a large-scale service swindle in which doctors and chemists on Merseyside are said to have creamed off £50,000 during the past three years.

Detectives are sifting through thousands of prescription forms seized from a number of Liverpool area. At least two others are under scrutiny for alleged frauds involving prescriptions, out of hours payments, and full-time fees claimed by a part-time doctor.

## A question of sexual definition

By George Clark

Some Conservative MPs were expressing dismay last night at the definitions of sexual activity in the Government's proposed amendments to the Bill to give local authorities control over sex shops and blue film cinema.

They fear that the definition of sexual activity, which will lead to long arguments in the standing committee considering the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

That is the measure the Government has chosen to introduce the controls to allow councils, acting in response to protests from local shopkeepers and householders, to refuse to license sex shops and cinema.

In a new schedule to the Bill, "sex cinema" is extended to vehicles that could be used to display films or fairground booths. It states: "Sex cinema means any premises, whether or not licensed, in which a film is shown for the exhibition of moving pictures, by whatever means produced, which are (a) concerned primarily with the portrayal of, or primarily deal with or relate to, or are intended to stimulate or encourage (i) sexual activity or (ii) acts of force, restraint, violence or cruelty which are associated with sexual activity; or (b) concerned primarily with the portrayal of, or primarily deal with or relate to, genital organs or urinary or excretory functions; but does not include a dwelling house to which the public is not admitted."

Some MPs believe these definitions could extend the scope of the Bill to cinemas showing A and the X-rated films.

Parliamentary report, page 4

## Overseas selling prices

Australia \$2.22, Bahrain 0.62, Belgium 1.75, Canada 1.00, Denmark 1.00, Egypt 1.00, France 1.00, Germany 1.00, Greece 1.00, Hong Kong 1.00, India 1.00, Italy 1.00, Japan 1.00, Korea 1.00, Lebanon 1.00, Luxembourg 1.00, Malaysia 1.00, Mexico 1.00, Netherlands 1.00, New Zealand 1.00, Norway 1.00, Pakistan 1.00, Portugal 1.00, Saudi Arabia 1.00, Singapore 1.00, South Africa 1.00, Spain 1.00, Sweden 1.00, Switzerland 1.00, Taiwan 1.00, Thailand 1.00, Turkey 1.00, United Kingdom 1.00, USA 1.00, Yugoslavia 1.00.

## Cuts for tests

By Annabel F...

A research lab... which has developed... blood disorders... government cuts... the laboratory... the Westminster Medical School... run by who... Matthews... asked to retire... Dr John Linnell... close on March... about £40,000 a... Professor M... is the only... world which p... technique of se... measuring differ... vitamin B12 in th... A low level of... which is easy... by simple blood... tests carried o... Westminster... exact levels of... Professor M... of the lab... goes undiagnos... genes might b... such disorders... cause being know... in mild cases... results in mild r... cap, but in severe... to serious... crippling, and de...

## Judge 'manly'

A judge praised... of the Special P... yesterday for th... devotion to duty... restraint in a c... inly minor in... young Mack arre... the British rou... a struggle that h... had described as... life and death.

Judge Lord... passing sentence... Lordship Crown... criticised the way... had been comm... provided guidan... ending officer th... result in a cut i... Mr Sibghat Kat... fence counsel, a... chairman of the... Black Panthers... Mr Kadri and h... had repeatedly... ing the three-day... one point the ju... jury's absence... continued Mr Kat... Yesterday the... there had been... issues in the... conducted in s... that the trial h... view, at least tw... necessary of des... means of justifi... one."

Anthony Amos... Russell Estate, I... accused on Fr... suit, but convict... majority verdict... sing an offensive... wick.

During his arre... SPG officer's fi... lone. Mr Amos...

## TV LIN FIR ATTACK

By Kenneth...

A fire-acting s... Italian film sho... television may... copied by a gan... who attacked... Liverpool at the... The theory is b... the Merseyside... who are search... attackers of Dr... killed, Liverp... three youths is... on patrol into h... a second threwe... match at him.

The police fell to... with the face... another the flamm... hands and was... hospital. Mersey... yesterday... treating the aut... serious as a... The police said... shown on a f... programme. The... depicting an... similar was the... national presenta... on January 23... (a) sexual activity or (b) acts of force, restraint, violence or cruelty which are associated with sexual activity; or (c) concerned primarily with the portrayal of, or primarily deal with or relate to, genital organs or urinary or excretory functions; but does not include a dwelling house to which the public is not admitted."

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Parliamentary report, page 4

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## Convention on ship salvage to be revised

### COMMONS

The preliminary inquiry into the Penlee lifeboat disaster is expected to be completed by the end of this month, Mr. Ian Spratt, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said at a question time in the Commons.

Sir William van Straubenzee (Wokingham, C) asked what consideration the Department of Trade had given to the problems of current contract practice with regard to the salvage of stricken ships.

Mr. Spratt: I note the wide use made of the Lloyd's standard form of salvage agreement under which remuneration is determined after the salvage operation by agreement or arbitration. The Minister of the preliminaries to rapid action.

I keep under review whether there are lessons to be learned from individual incidents. The United Kingdom delegation to IMCO will play its full part in the coming revision of the 1970 Brussels convention on salvage.

Sir William van Straubenzee: I am interested in the recent and particularly tragic case involving the loss of the entire crew who went to the rescue.

There is any justification for the view that delay in settling the salvage terms was one of the

causes, possibly something on the lines of mandatory provisions which would come into effect on certain basic conditions being satisfied, might be something to be considered in the revision of which we spoke.

Mr. Spratt: We will be willing to look at any lessons which we could learn from the inquiry currently being carried out by the RNLI and my department and the Government of the Republic of Ireland, but traditional mariners' law believes that the ship's master is the best person to decide whether his ship is in danger.

Mr. John Prescott (Kingston upon Hull, East, Lab): For a successful tow of the stricken vessel adequate manning is required. Has he seen the Minister of Transport's statement from Ireland that manning levels in Ireland are the same as Britain's?

Mr. Spratt: I read the newspaper reports to which he refers and will consider that in the light of the Irish Government's report IMCO will play its full part in the coming revision of the 1970 Brussels convention on salvage.

Mr. David Gammans (Dewsbury, SDP): What sort of time scale does he envisage? How soon will it be before a convention is signed?

Mr. Spratt: On the IMCO agreement, there is to be a meeting in 1984. I believe there are one or two other things that have to be settled before then.



Van Straubenzee: Delays

Costain: Special Rules

requiring a fair amount of work by IMCO, but I hope that it will be at the next diplomatic conference, 1984-85.

Sir Albert Costain (Folkestone and Hythe, C): This is particularly important in areas of the English Channel and to the south-east of Kent where we have one of the highest concentrations of shipping in the world. Would it be possible to make special rules apply to ships in this narrow waterway?

Mr. Spratt: He is right about the extremely difficult and potentially dangerous nature of the English Channel. When the preliminary inquiry is completed

I will look at what he suggests in the light of what the inquiry reveals.

Mr. Kenneth Woolmer, an Opposition spokesman on trade (Bartley and Morley, Lab): On the question of the United States Star Line, a company which has been operating in the Channel, when does he expect the preliminary inquiry to report? Will he give an assurance that he will look at the call for a proper public inquiry to investigate the many doubts expressed so far?

Mr. Spratt: I give that assurance. I hope and expect that the preliminary inquiry will be completed by the end of this month.

## Building society practice disliked by minister

### INSURANCE

The practice of some building societies in forcing their property holders to insure their property with a particular company, which might not give best value, was wrong, Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister of Consumer Affairs, said.

She stated that she would strongly support the Director General of Fair Trading in any attempt to end the practice. Asked whether the review of the Building Societies Association had yet been completed, she said some of the associations were still the subject of discussion. It was a matter for the Director General of Fair Trading.

Mr. Robin Squire (Hornchurch, C) asked if she was satisfied with the monitoring of Building Societies Association/Office of Fair Trading agreements which had been made in the past, in particular the choice of insurance company which in some cases did not grant.

Would she agree with the National Consumer Council report which said that in practice very few members have any influence on the way their own building society operates? Mrs. Oppenheim: I have a candid answer of sympathy with his first point. I hope the practice he referred to, the nomination of insurance companies, has now stopped and for all.

Following discussions last year, the Director of Fair Trading and the Building Societies Association have said

the association no longer recommends borrowers to insure their property through an agent of the building society.

The Director General has said he is satisfied that if the building societies follow the recommendations on freedom of choice of insurance companies, the situation will no longer occur. It is being carefully monitored.

Mr. Kenneth Weetch (Ipswich, Lab): Many of these restrictive practices arise from the fact that building societies are not democratic bodies. Many of these boards — the Anglia being a flagrant example — seek to prevent a blood coming on to their boards.

Mrs. Oppenheim: Self-perpetuating, anti-democratic organizations do not have a place in my good books. If he has a particular practice in mind, I am sure this is a serious point he is making — perhaps he will draw it to the attention of the Director General. I would also be glad to see a copy of it.

Mr. Toby Jessel (Richmond upon Thames, Wicks, Lab): Some building societies are not complying with the recommendation of their association. It is utterly wrong that a person who has a mortgage should be forced by a building society to insure his house with a particular company, which may not give the best value possible.

Will she strongly support any attempt by the Director General to ensure that such a practice stopped once and for all?

Mrs. Oppenheim: Yes, it is wrong. The Director General of Fair Trading, the Building Societies Association have said

## London bid for trade mark office

Britain could succeed in winning the site of the EEC trade mark office, which is to be moved from London to the location, Mr. Reginald Eyre, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said yesterday.

The Bill, which has been drawn up by the Lord Chancellor's department in consultation with the Law Society, has the widespread backing of the legal profession.

It will put what has been a voluntary and piecemeal system on to a more uniform basis and standardize criteria about who receives help from the duty solicitors.

It does not make it compulsory for duty solicitors to be set up in all magistrates' courts. But the Law Society said: "One object is to put pressure on the courts and police who have not liked the idea."

There are at present duty solicitor schemes in 130 magistrates' courts. They have grown up in a piecemeal fashion in the last decade and

have greatly varying methods and practices as to which defendants are aided and for what aspect of the proceedings.

The schemes, now run by the Law Society's local legal aid committees, provide for solicitors on a rota to give emergency advice and help to defendants in magistrates' courts who seem in most need of it.

The Bill published yesterday also enables the Lord Chancellor to make regulations giving the Law Society legal aid committees more power over the administration of criminal legal aid in the way that they have at present over civil legal aid.

That will improve the consistency with which applications are dealt with. It also reforms the system of contributions paid by defendants towards the cost of their legal aid.

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## Cabinet sets out to counter CND 'distortions'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government yesterday launched a new drive to counter what it regards as misleading propaganda about its defence policies by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Ministers held a briefing session at Conservative Central Office for about ninety members of the party's speaking panels from all over Britain advising them on how to reply to the arguments of the unilateralists, and to present the Government's stance on arms control and multilateral disarmament.

The Government's campaign is in response to what it sees as growing public demands for quick progress on arms control agreements.

The workers, who included many prospective parliamentarian candidates, were told by Mr. Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, of the danger when people, tempted by their own anxieties, turned to unilateralism.

"The silliest remark in this whole discussion was that a unilateralist was a mutilated man, or woman," he said. "On the contrary, a unilateralist is someone who ignores the real world and whose policy, if adopted, would lead to a multilateral disarmament to failure."

Mr. Peter Blaker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that people's search for the truth about the Government's policies of

## Legal aid Bill for duty solicitors in courts

By Frances Gibb

A Legal Aid Bill which provides for a duty solicitor in magistrates' courts and for an overhaul of the way criminal legal aid is administered, published by the Government yesterday.

The Bill, which has been drawn up by the Lord Chancellor's department in consultation with the Law Society, has the widespread backing of the legal profession.

It will put what has been a voluntary and piecemeal system on to a more uniform basis and standardize criteria about who receives help from the duty solicitors.

It does not make it compulsory for duty solicitors to be set up in all magistrates' courts. But the Law Society said: "One object is to put pressure on the courts and police who have not liked the idea."

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## Makers to get swifter approvals

### STANDARDS

There had been a considerable improvement in the processing of specifications for approval submitted to the Quality Assurance and Standards Division of the Department of Trade, Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, said during questions.

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich West, Lab) had asked the Secretary of State for Trade to increase the recruitment to the division with the object of enabling British manufacturers submitting specifications and designs to obtain final approval within six months.

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim: The numbers of engineering posts in the National Weights and Measures Laboratory of the division have already been increased with the aim of reaching a decision on new designs of weighing or measuring equipment within a few months of submission.

Following a shortage of engineers which led to delays, recruiting to fill the extra posts has been pressed vigorously over the past two-and-a-half years and as a result I hope that the last post will be filled shortly. Furthermore, new examination procedures agreed with manufacturers were introduced on January 1. Among other things they will help to speed up the approval process.

Miss Boothroyd: A delay of two years before a Government department could examine a specification submitted by industry was an indictment on the

proper function of that department. Further, such delays have been having adverse effects on British manufacturing industry with losses of productivity, export markets, and so on.

She should assure the manufacturing sector that any submitted specification for approval will not take longer than six months before they get an indication of their acceptance.

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There were 21 cases waiting examination or actually under examination for final approval between January and June 1981, and only five between July and December 1981, so already in the past year there has been a noted improvement which I hope will continue.

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Following a shortage of engineers which led to delays, recruiting to fill the extra posts has been pressed vigorously over the past two-and-a-half years and as a result I hope that the last post will be filled shortly. Furthermore, new examination procedures agreed with manufacturers were introduced on January 1. Among other things they will help to speed up the approval process.

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Mr. Wells: Would he list the steps he proposes to take to return BA to profitability, so that it can be sold as a viable, going concern before the end of this Parliament?

Mr. Spratt: I intend to take few steps. The first is to get the board. Anything that he has to turn round the profits of BA has my full encouragement. I congratulate Sir John King and his ways on the trenchant and robust measures they are taking.

Mr. Kenneth Woolmer, an Opposition spokesman on trade (Bartley and Morley, Lab): Can he give an assurance that there will be no more stripping of profitable BA routes to tempt other airlines?

Before taking a further decision on BA, would he look at the transatlantic air fares war and see whether this is a major explanation of the problems faced by BA along with many others in recent years?

Mr. Spratt: On the so-called "war" on the North Atlantic, in 1980 the three British carriers operating out of Heathrow had a combined fleet of nine American carriers: a tremendous achievement by the British airline industry, including British Airways, which has no intention of stripping any routes.

Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow, Central, C): BA could be saved over £1m a year in fuel costs and the safety of the travelling public could be greatly enhanced if the price of fuel were to be brought down to the level of the other airlines.

Mr. Spratt: I do not intend to protect BA from the need to operate competitively. In formulating civil aviation policy, the Government is considering the need to give due weight to the interests of BA, as to those of other British airlines.

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## Policeman paid informer with drugs, QC says

From Our Correspondent, York

Five drug squad detectives declared war on addicts in Hull by paying an underworld informer with drugs, Mr Brian Walsh, QC, told York Crown Court yesterday.

The officers recruited a small-time pusher to supply illegal drugs to suspects before they arrested them, it was claimed.

Yesterday the jury was told how the informer, Thomas Hamilton Dunsmore, aged 30, was paid with heroin, LSD, cocaine, and cannabis from the drug squad's safe.

The officers, a detective inspector, and four detective constables based at Hull, denied 10 offences under the misuse of Drugs Act.

Mr Walsh, for the prosecution, told the jury that the officers allowed Mr Dunsmore to peddle hard core drugs for almost three years.

He said the offences resulted in two of the officers, Det Constable Ian Davidson and Det Constable Philip Ribby, receiving substantial sums of money.

Mr Walsh said the offences began in 1977, when two of the officers recruited Mr Dunsmore as an informer after arresting him in possession of cannabis in a public house in Hull.

No charges were preferred, but Mr Walsh said, "in a nutshell, between 1977 and 1979 the officers quite unlawfully supplied drugs for sale as a reward or inducement to give them information about drugs and drug users."

Mr Dunsmore's job was to supply the drugs to other users, who were then arrested in possession, to order supplies of cannabis from local pushers, so that the detectives could arrest them when they attempted to sell them, he said.

Whether this was done by the officers out of zeal to gain convictions to boost the records of individual officers so that in the end they could get promotion, it was wrong, illegal, and wholly improper conduct," he said.

He added that each time there was a conviction drugs were given to Mr Dunsmore as a reward or inducement to trap someone else.

However, Mr Walsh said that on one occasion two detectives arrested an innocent man "set up" under their noses by Mr Dunsmore.

He said the man, a young bus driver from Saltburn, would give evidence to describe how he was convicted after a pop festival in Bridlington for possessing cannabis which he "didn't know he had on him".

Mr Dunsmore, he said, was a crucial witness, but also a criminal with a long record.

He was not "a shy or blushing violet", and when the police finally interviewed him he was promised by detectives that they would stop him if he said anything to incriminate himself.

Mr Dunsmore's career as an informer was interrupted in July, 1977, when he was jailed for six months for driving while disqualified, but Mr Walsh said that even in Manchester prison the detectives kept in touch.

On one occasion, Mr Walsh said, Det Constable Mike Atkins passed him a quantity of cannabis in a prison dormitory room which Mr Dunsmore later sold. On another, money was passed to him by detectives.

The accused men, all from Hull, are: Det Insp Mike Lord, aged 44, of St Margaret's Avenue, who denies possessing cannabis; Constable Davidson, aged 31, of Willerby Road, who denies inciting another to supply cannabis; two counts of unlawfully supplying LSD and heroin, and being concerned in supplying cannabis.

Constable Atkins, aged 26, of Norland Avenue, who denied unlawful possession and supply of cannabis, unlawfully supplying LSD, and inciting another to supply cannabis.

Constable Ribby, aged 31, of Newton Dale, Sutton Park, who denies being concerned in the supplying of cannabis and unlawfully supplying LSD and cocaine.

Constable Andrew Ablett, aged 33, of Riversdale Road, who denies unlawfully possessing and supplying cannabis.

The trial continues today.

## Schoolboy rapists to be detained 18 months

Two schoolboys who raped a girl aged 13 were each ordered to be detained for 18 months yesterday when Mr Justice Taylor, told Leeds Crown Court that neither a detention centre nor Borstal was adequate.

The boys, both aged 15, had pleaded guilty to raping the girl and aiding and abetting each other to commit rape. A third boy, also aged 15, who admitted indecently assaulting the girl and aiding and abetting one of the other boys in an offence of attempted rape, was sentenced to six months in a detention centre.

The judge, who directed that the three boys and the girl should not be identified, told the two rapists: "It is necessary you should be sent for a period of custody so that not only you realize, because I believe you do, but that others realize that to attack a girl this way is quite unacceptable in society."

Mr Norman Jones, for the prosecution, said the three boys and the girl attended the same school.

In Camberwell, south London, a boy aged 15 was remanded in custody by magistrates yesterday, accused of raping two women in one week. He will appear at Lewisham North juvenile court, south London, next Tuesday.

The boy is also accused of causing grievous bodily harm to one of the victims and of robbing the other of cash and jewelry worth £200.



Mr Reg J. Gadsden, who will judge the six group winners for the Supreme Champion award at Crufts dog show at Earls Court, London, on Sunday week, with his fox terrier Vicky.

## Better TV favoured, not more

By Kenneth Gosling

The prospect of multichannel television on American lines is greeted with little enthusiasm by London viewers, according to a survey carried out for the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

A thousand people were invited to complete a questionnaire in which they were asked what they felt about five more television channels providing programmes by satellite, and for their reactions to pay-television and cheap video-cassette recorders.

Most people who took part in the survey said they would prefer to see the present channels improved than to have more channels.

A framework for television satellite broadcasting in Europe was established in 1977 when five channels were assigned to give national coverage for each European country.

The first such broadcasts will take place in about three years.

A report by Dr Mallory Wober, the IBA's deputy head of research, indicates that people are not simply against change; they were, for instance, generally in favour of video-cassette recorders.

One viewer said: "Five more channels on television would give programme planners more chance to use poor quality and cheap rubbish."

## Planners say airport inquiry is bungled

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Town and Country Planning Association announced yesterday that it had withdrawn its formal application to build London's third airport at Maplin Sands in Essex. Its action will reduce further Maplin's slim chances of being chosen as the airport site.

However, the association, which is backed by a consortium of companies and local authorities, insisted yesterday that Maplin was a better choice than the inland site at Stansted. It will present the Maplin case as an objector to Stansted at the public airport inquiry, which is now in its seventeenth week.

Maplin's hopes were damaged last year when the Greater London Council switched allegiance from it to Stansted. Last month the Ministry of Defence said that an airport at Maplin would damage the nation's defence capabilities by forcing the closure of being experimental ranges near by.

The aim of the association's withdrawal is to save time. If its application had gone ahead the public inquiry would now be examining Stansted now examining Stansted would have had to devote as much detailed attention to Maplin, even though the Government does not support it.

By putting the Maplin case in objections to Stansted the association will give Mr Graham Eyre, the inquiry inspector, an opportunity to recommend that Maplin should be considered instead of Stansted. In the light of evidence given so far, it is highly unlikely that he will do so. Nevertheless, the association has succeeded in steering the inquiry outside the narrow orbit of Stansted.

The move of the association is one of a series of policy changes that have heaped complications on the inquiry since it opened last year. Mr David Hall, director of the association, said yesterday that a local inquiry into merits of enlarging the airport at Stansted was far too narrow a format for such a broad issue as London's third airport.

He considered the present inquiry, which will hear detailed evidence about Stansted and a possible fifth terminal at Heathrow, far less suitable than a planning inquiry commission which could initiate its own research and consider a range of suitable sites.

"The Government has bungled the whole process", Mr Hall said. "It seems to have learnt nothing from the experience of other big inquiries like Windescale and the Vale of Belvoir." The Stansted inquiry has been punctuated by reproofs from Mr Eyre to government departments for failing to produce adequate evidence about the local impact of an enlarged Stansted.

Mr Hall released the text of a letter he sent last week to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. It included formal withdrawal of the Maplin application "on the ground of what has become, in our view, a wasteful and inappropriate proceeding".

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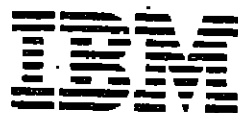
After all, it's a problem that affects everyone in Britain, not just people in business."

Ron Akass, IBM UK

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For further information, please write to External Communications Department, IBM United Kingdom Limited, P.O. Box 41, North Harbour, Portsmouth, Hants. PO6 3AU



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## Courts urged to shun inflated traffic fines

By Frances Gibb

Road traffic fines should remain at present levels although inflation has more than doubled since they were last reviewed, the Magistrates' Association recommended yesterday.

In its latest guidelines on road traffic offence penalties, the first since August, 1978, the association says that after consulting its branches, the overwhelming response was "that people's financial circumstances had not necessarily gone up in accordance with inflation".

Magistrates should therefore bear that in mind when fixing the amount of fines, it says. "A court should use its discretion in all the circumstances of the case in deciding whether a fine should be adjusted accordingly."

But the recommended freeze on fine levels might only be a short-lived respite, the association says. The Criminal Justice Bill, now before the Commons, proposes penalty increases for all road traffic offences. Further guidelines might therefore be issued later this year.

The latest guidelines, however, do include increased penalties for failing to stop and failing to report an accident, in line with the increase in the maximum penalty for those offences in the Transport Act, 1981.

The recommended penalties are: £100 and endorsement and consideration of disqualification for failing to stop after an accident, and £50 and an endorsement for failing to report an accident. Maximum penalties in each case are now £1,000 and endorsement.

It is emphasized that the guidelines are only suggested penalties, representing a broad consensus on appropriate penalties for average offences committed by first offenders of average means.

For the first time, they include seat belt offences, pending provisions in the Transport Act, 1981, not yet in force. A fine of £10 is suggested for those not wearing a seat belt or for driving with a child not wearing one.

Stopping on a clearway is also included for the first time. The recommended penalty is £25.

Other suggested penalties include: stopping on the motorway hard shoulder, £25; walking on motorway or slip road, £25; and on hard shoulder £15; stopping on zig-zags by pedestrian crossing, £20 and endorsement; and driving with faulty tyres, £25 and endorsement.

On drinking and driving offences, the association says they account for many accidents, injuries and deaths. "The Court of Appeal has consistently upheld higher penalties for offenders with higher blood alcohol, and it is suggested that fines and especially periods of disqualification should reflect this."

### SIKH KIDNAP FATHER CONVICTED

A Sikh who kidnapped his daughter when she defied him over an arranged marriage and ran away with her boyfriend was given a prison sentence of two years suspended for two years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Ranjit Rai, aged 43, of Orchard Road, Darlington, Co Durham, was convicted of assault causing actual bodily harm on his daughter, Jasbir, aged 24, and causing grievous bodily harm to her boyfriend, Mr Muhammad Hanif, a Muslim. He had denied the charges.

His son, Lakhbir Rai, aged 19, unemployed, of the same address, pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr Hanif and was jailed for six months. He was allowed to leave the court because both he and his father had been in custody.

The girl's fiancé in the arranged marriage, Barinder Bains, aged 23, a machine operator, of Speckmans Way, Slough, Berkshire, was given a prison sentence of two months suspended for two years. He admitted impeding the arrest of the two other men.

### PROTEST MARS CD OPENING

Anti-nuclear protesters disrupted yesterday's opening of the headquarters of the United Kingdom's early warning and monitoring organization which exists to give public warnings of air attacks and radio active fallout.

About fifty members of the Oxford-based Campaign Atom picketed the Civil Defence building at Cowley Barracks, Oxford. Many wore white boilersuits and gas masks.

They festooned the walls and gates with balloons and banners in protest. They want Oxford to be declared a nuclear-free zone.

Mr Mark Levene and Mr Glyn Robinson, two members of Campaign Atom were allowed in to put their objections to Mr Roy Cooke, the director.

Mr Levene said: "They claim their sole function is to advise the public in the event of a nuclear war, but they have a military role and are part of the war-fighting apparatus."



## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## More Red Brigades flats raided

Vicenza — Police claim to have smashed three more hideouts of the Red Brigades amid reports that arrested illegal terrorists are providing important information to police.

Arrests in the latest sweeps, in Rome flats, bring to 25 the number held since police stormed a flat in Padua and freed Brigades General James Dozier, the American Nato officer, Thursday. An American cache was found in one of the Rome hideouts.

Emilia Libera and Giovanni Ciucci, two of General Dozier's alleged kidnappers arrested on Thursday, were giving police information about their earlier activities in the Red Brigades, Italian newspapers said.

## Briton denies terrorist links

New York — John Paul Arthur, of Surrey, who had a sub-machine gun and armour piercing bullets, when he was detained in Brooklyn last week, has denied any connection with terrorist groups. A statement released through his lawyers before his court appearance rejected rumours that have linked him with the IRA, Libya and other groups.

Arthur, who entered the United States through Florida, was arrested in a predominantly Italian neighbourhood after a resident reported a suspicious car in the area. He is being held on \$15,000 bail (\$535,000). He was due to appear in court later and was expected to be remanded for trial.

## Mugabe seeks Namibia action

Salisbury — It was time for the Western contact group to take a much firmer line in getting South Africa to comply with an undiluted resolution 435 on Namibia, Mr Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe said here.

Pretria was receiving solace through the prevarication, if not encouragement, of some Western countries, he told 61 representatives of the Lomé Convention countries.

## Navy test-fires missile in US

Cape Canaveral. A British missile has successfully test-fired what is believed to be an improved version of the Polaris missile, 30 miles off the Florida coast.

Officials refused to confirm that Saturday's launch from the Renown while submerged at the eastern test range of the United States Air Force involved a new Polaris missile, but officials have acknowledged that Britain has been conducting land-based launches of an improved Polaris in the area for several years.

## First day of Senegambia

Abidjan.—The long-planned Senegambia Confederation, uniting Senegal with The Gambia, was born at midnight. It grew out of a coup attempt last year in The Gambia. Capital, Banjul, which was defeated with the help of Senegalese troops.

Both countries retain their sovereignty but will develop joint policies for defence, foreign affairs, finance and customs.

## 40 accused of Bihar blindings

Delhi.—Forty police officers, doctors and others are expected to be prosecuted for their part in the blinding of prisoners in the north Indian state of Bihar.

The decision to suspend the men and to clear the way for court action comes 15 months after newspaper disclosures that 32 prisoners at Bhagalpur had been blinded with needles, bicycle spokes and acid.

## Peking's offer seen as ploy

Peking.—China's offer to negotiate a time limit on American arms sales to Taiwan was seen by Western diplomats here as an attempt to appear flexible rather than an indication of a wish to compromise.

The statement was aimed at making Peking appear as reasonable as possible, they said, so that if Sino-American relations deteriorate, China can deny responsibility and blame Washington's intransigence.

## Dynamite deaths

Aldorf, Switzerland.—Two workers were killed and seven others injured when dynamite exploded and set off a fire at an explosives factory.

## El Salvador slaughter begins after midnight

From Paul Eilman, San Salvador, Feb 1

The name of Jorge Aurelio Hurrutia did not figure on the list carried by the masked men dressed in Salvadorean army uniforms who came to his house in the early hours of the morning. But he was shot anyway.

His body, with two bullet holes in the heart, and the back of the head blown away, was one of 19 discovered yesterday morning in San Antonio Abad, a poverty-stricken slum on the north-western edge of San Salvador.

According to their families, all 19 died in similar circumstances — shot after their homes were raided by men dressed in army uniforms. All were inhabitants of the neighbourhood and ranged in age from a woman of 57 to two brothers, aged 16 and 14.

According to the Salvadoran military command, "some 20 terrorists" were killed during an operation mounted by the first infantry brigade after complaints from local inhabitants about "subversive" activity.

Injecting an element of confusion, a communiqué from the command further claimed that "as usual, the subversives took their dead and wounded with them".

Between the military operation and the 19 bodies found in the streets of San Antonio Abad.

Obfuscation of this sort is not unusual in El Salvador where the conduct of the military has again come under the scrutiny of the United States Congress after allegations that troops slaughtered almost 1,000 civilians during an operation in December in northern Morazan province near the border with Honduras.

The way in which Señor Hurrutia died offers a grisly insight into the often random way in which death finds its victims in the Salvadorean war, which last year accounted for nearly 17,000 civilian fatalities.

According to his daughter, Sandra Dalia, aged 19, the family was awakened by banging on the front door at 1 a.m. She said her father, dressed only in trousers, answered the door and was immediately seized by men in black berets and olive green uniforms, the lower halves of their faces being hidden by masks.

They brought her father back later to collect a shirt and a pair of shoes. They asked what he did for a living and when I told them he was a driver for the Ministry of Agriculture, they laughed. Señora Hurrutia said. It was the last time she saw her father alive. But the uniformed men came back a third time to search the

house and to question Señor Hurrutia's eldest son, Sergio, aged 16.

Other inhabitants of San Antonio Abad told stories of windows being shot out when people took too long to answer their doors and of finding bodies with their hands tied behind their backs.

The people of San Antonio Abad alleged that the killings had been carried out by troops from the San Carlos garrison, which is responsible for security in this sector of the capital. The garrison is the headquarters of the First Infantry Brigade.

The area, which lies on the lower slopes of the San Salvador volcano, is described by military sources as an infiltration route into the capital by guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí national liberation movement which is fighting to overthrow the military and civilian junta led by President José Napoleón Duarte.

The apparent link between Salvadoran troops and yet more slaughtering of civilians adds to the embassies' view of the military as a base for the export of subversion and armed intervention. In neighbouring El Salvador, yesterday Mr Ruben Zamora, a spokesman for the Salvadorean guerrillas, said that additional military aid to El Salvador would only prolong the killing in the Central American state.

He said that nothing short of sending American combat troops to El Salvador could prevent the eventual defeat of the Duarte regime.

"The Government forces are not going to be able to win the war with just more equipment," Mr Zamora said. "To win the war the Reagan Administration would need to do so much more than the American people would not accept it."

The Administration is expected to ask Congress to increase military and economic aid to El Salvador by \$100m to \$235m this fiscal year. A further increase to \$300m is expected for next year. The request will be contained in the President's budget presentation next Monday.

Last week President Reagan said that the Salvadorean regime of President Duarte was making sufficient progress on political and human rights for it to qualify for additional military and economic aid.

However this assumption is expected to be challenged in Congress this week, particularly after a series of press reports about an alleged massacre in which between 733 and 926 people are said to have been killed by government troops.

During his testimony, Mr Enders also confirmed that Cuba had

recently received a new consignment of MiG 23 "Flogger" jet aircraft.

The presence at an airport near Havana of a number of crates believed to contain the aircraft was reported last month, but until now the Administration has refused to comment on these reports.

Mr Enders said the aircraft formed the second squadron of MiG 23s received by Cuba from the Soviet Union.

He also said that Cuba received some 63,000 tons of military supplies last year, more than in any other year since the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

The need for additional assistance to pro-Western states in Central America, Mr Enders gave a warning that "unless we act now, the future could well bring more Cuban totalitarian regimes so linked to the Soviet Union that they become factors in the military balance, and so incompetent economically that their citizens' only hope becomes that of one day migrating to the United States."

He said that Nicaragua was already in the process of "being exploited as a base for the export of subversion and armed intervention" in neighbouring El Salvador.

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Mr Enders said the aircraft formed the second squadron of MiG 23s received by Cuba from the Soviet Union.

He also said that Cuba received some 63,000 tons of military supplies last year, more than in any other year since the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

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He said that nothing short of sending American combat troops to El Salvador could prevent the eventual defeat of the Duarte regime.

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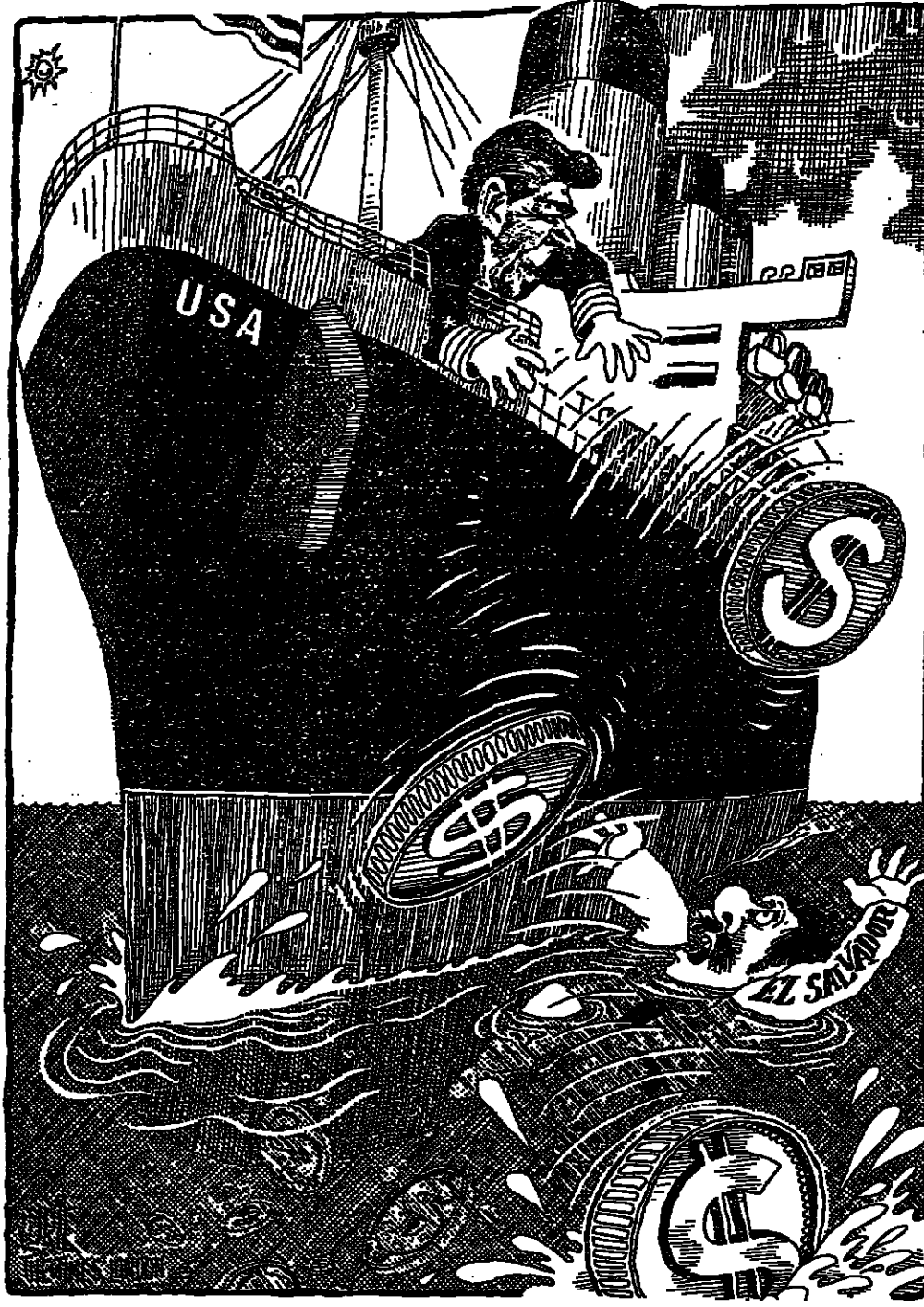
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## US puts off declaring Polish debt in default

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 1

The Reagan Administration said today it will not declare in default Poland's debt to American banks despite failure of the Jaruzelski Government to meet scheduled payments of \$71.3m about £37.5m in January.

Instead, the Administration has decided to reimburse nine United States banks for the past due payments of principal and interest owed in January, said Mr Beryl Sprinkel, United States Under Secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs.

The Administration's newly articulated policy on Polish debt, opposed by hardliners in the Defence and Commerce Departments, would permit the Government to repay American

banks a total of \$397m owed by Poland this year.

The money is part of \$1,600m in loans made or guaranteed by the United States Agriculture Department to finance grain sales to Poland under community credit corporation programmes.

Some hardliners in the Administration had urged President Reagan to put economic pressure on the Soviet Union and the Eastern countries by declaring Poland's debt in default.

Mr Sprinkel said today, however, that "at the moment we are taking the position that we are not going to declare a default" in order to avoid putting additional strain on the international monetary system.

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## GREENE IN POLITICAL FURORE

From Jonathan Fenby, Paris, Feb 1

The "Graham Greene Affair" developed into a political dispute in France today as opposing figures from the Riviera exchanged rhetorical punches over the British writer's allegations of police-protected crime and corruption in Nice.

M. Jacques Medecin, Mayor of Nice, was first into the fray with an interview accusing Mr Greene of fomenting the Riviera nest. He said the allegations, first made in a letter to *The Times* a week ago and enlarged upon in an interview with *The Sunday Times* published yesterday, were romanticized conclusions drawn from the unhappy experiences of one of Mr Greene's friends threatened by her criminal ex-husband.

"Once again, I note that a writer who likes the Côte d'Azur to the point of settling down to live here fends the nest in order to gain a bit of publicity and promote a novel through scandal," he added.

This was too much for M. Max Gallo, Socialist Deputy for Nice, a long-time political opponent of the Riviera mayor and author himself of a recent novel about crime and corruption in the area.

Mr Greene's allegations, which he is putting forward in detail in a book to be entitled *L'Accuse*, attracted widespread attention in the French press and broadcasting media today. By tonight, the French news agency was heading its stories: "Affaire Graham Greene".

In Spain, the whole documentary was shown in prime time, watched by an estimated nine million. Two West German stations beamed shortened versions, drawing some complaints from viewers about cold war-style propaganda. Others said the whole programme should have been shown.

Poland is not the only Eastern block country where prices of basic commodities have risen sharply; over the weekend Czechoslovak authorities also introduced a wide range of price increases.

Although the increases are much smaller than those in Poland they none the less represent a cut in Czechoslovak living standards.

The price of meat has been raised by an average of 25 per cent, cigarettes by 30 per cent, tobacco products by 39 per cent, wine by 18 per cent, and domestic vodka by 25 per cent. The price of rice is also

to be increased but it is not yet clear by how much.

Announcing the increases last week Mr Lubomir Strougal, the Prime Minister, said the state was subsidizing food prices at a level it could no longer afford.

Meat was a particular problem because Czechoslovakia had a comparatively high level of meat consumption but a quarter of that had to be produced from imported livestock feed. He made it clear that by increasing meat prices the Government hoped significantly to reduce consumption.

Czechoslovakia faces

## Bad press for TV spectacular

By Our Foreign Staff

President Reagan's television spectacular, *Tel Poland Be Poland*, has had a bad press.

Denunciation of the programme by Moscow and Warsaw yesterday as subversive and hypocritical was predictable. But commentators in the West, taking a less obviously committed view, were also lukewarm.

The documentary, protesting against martial law in Poland, was broadcast in the United States on Sunday night and beamed to more than 50 countries.

Tass, the Soviet news agency, was quick to react to the programme. "It is already obvious that this subversive television show was a complete failure," it declared. In Warsaw the official news agency attacked the show as hypocritical and "unprecedented propaganda".

Both Soviet and Polish television countered the American broadcast with special transmissions of their own. Soviet viewers were shown clips of alleged United States intelligence agents at work in Warsaw.

The Warsaw daily *Zycie Warszawy*, said the American effort marked a return to "the psychological struggle against the East which was a complete failure" of the classical cold war period.

Most viewers in Western Europe saw only shortened versions of the programme, or reports of it on news bulletins. BBC television said yesterday it had not yet decided whether to screen the whole programme.

"We're still looking at it, judging whether or not to do anything further," it was stated.

The British press led by *The Times* report from Washington, was critical, dismissing the show as dull. In France, only *Le Figaro* among leading dailies gave it much credit.

In Holland, debate on the broadcast overshadowed the issues it sought to address. Critics said that the President was using the show for his own political goals, while ignoring human rights violations in El Salvador. Turkey and other countries with Governments to which it was sympathetic.

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Czechoslovakia faces

## Israelis unveil autonomy package

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Feb 1

Israel last night officially published its proposals for the establishment of a Palestinian self-governing authority to administer the West Bank and Gaza under the autonomy plan.

There were no surprises in the document which proposed powers for the self-governing authority in 13 spheres and said the number of representatives in the administrative council should be commensurate with the functions listed.

The Egyptians in the autonomy negotiations have favoured a council with a few score deputies to serve as a legislature and not merely deal with executive matters.

The functions listed by the Israelis include the supervision of the administration of justice, control of all branches of agriculture and fisheries, as well as finance, including the budget of the administrative council, taxation, and the allocation of funds for various administrative departments.

The council, according to the Israeli proposals, will also control appointments to the civil service, and working conditions, as well as education and health services, housing and public works, local postal and communications services, welfare, labour and employment services, and municipal affairs.

Also entrusted to the Palestinians will be the maintenance and coordination of transport, local postal and communications services, welfare, labour and employment services, and municipal affairs.

"A strong local police force" will function as stated in the Camp David agreements. Prison services will be maintained for offenders sentenced by the area courts. The remaining functions will be the maintenance of religious facilities and the promotion of industry, commerce and tourism.

Elections to the administrative council are to be held "as expeditiously as possible", after the autonomy agreement is concluded. The inauguration of the self-governing authority will mark the start of the five-year transitional period for the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli military government and civilian administration will be withdrawn and replaced by Israeli forces deployed in "specified locations". A map of the locations will be presented during the negotiations.

The homes of three suspected terrorists were sealed last night by security forces in reprisal measures, it was announced by the Israeli Military command here.

They included two houses in Helbron said to have been the home of members of a Fatah terrorist squad who killed two Christian pilgrims in a grenade attack in the Old City of Jerusalem, on September 12. An official announcement said the owners had confessed to the murder and to a grenade attack on an Israeli car.

The third house, at Kfar Katana near Ramallah, was said to have belonged to a prisoner who admitted firing on a bus on July 29 injuring four civilians including a pregnant woman.

□ Cairo: Further evidence of the gradually improving relations between the new Egyptian Government of President Hosni Mubarak and the rest of the Arab world came today when the border between Egypt and Libya was opened temporarily for the first time in three years (Christopher Walker writes).

The move is seen as one of the most important developments in Egypt's foreign relations since the murder of President Sadat last October.

□ Paris: President Mitterrand will visit Egypt after his trip to the Middle East. President Mubarak said following talks with the French leader at the Elysée Palace here today (Jonathan Fenby writes).

Mitterrand and the Egyptian President discussed the Middle East situation, including the Palestinian autonomy question, and East-West and North-South relations during their meeting.

□ Canberra: Australia will join in the proposed Sinai peacekeeping force, Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, said today (Renter reports).

He said the participation of France, Britain, the Netherlands and Italy — approved by the Israeli Government yesterday — would give the balance Australia required.

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## South African journalists alarmed by registry plan

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town, Feb 1

The compulsory registration of all journalists on a central roll, from which those found guilty of "improper conduct" could be struck off and thereby prohibited from exercising their profession, is the central recommendation of an important report on the South African mass media tabled in Parliament here today.

The Government-commissioned report, drawn up by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Marthinus Steyn, a former Administrator-General of Namibia (South-West Africa), is widely seen in journalistic circles as the most serious threat to press freedom in the modern history of South Africa.

The report, which runs to three volumes and more than 1,300 pages, proposes the setting-up of a General Council for Journalism, which would regulate entry to the profession and sit in judgment on journalists accused of violating a statutory code of conduct.

The ultimate sanction available to the council would be to strike a journalist off the roll. Anyone who employed, published or broadcast the work of an unenrolled journalist would be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of up to 5,000 rand (£2,780).

The report presents its recommendations as being intended to "professionalize" journalism by putting it on the same footing as the other "great historic and learned

professions", such as medicine and the law. (The General Council would, for example, set entrance examinations for aspiring journalists.)

It is proposed that the council should have 12 members, of whom three would be Government appointees, three chosen by newspaper journalists and three by broadcasting journalists. They would serve for two years. During the first year of the council's life, however, all its members would be appointed by the Government.

There seems little doubt that the council's membership would be heavily weighted towards the generally pro-Government, Afrikaans end of the press spectrum. The main radio and television network, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, is largely a tool of Government propaganda while most magazines are owned by Afrikaans press groups.

Although the report finds fault with the Afrikaans press for being "too closely identified with Afrikaner nationalism its most barbed shafts are reserved for the "negativistic" reporting of the English-language press, which is the chief and certainly most vociferous vehicle for criticism of apartheid.

The report also criticizes the Government for excessive secretiveness. It then goes on, however, to plead for the

exhumation of the discredited Department of Information (disbanded after the "Muldergate" scandal), arguing that it should be empowered to conduct both "covert and overt" propaganda without having to account publicly for its use of Government funds.

The report comes close to saying that the Government was wrong in 1977 to ban outspoken black newspapers like the *World* and the *Post*, but says that the "moderate black community" should be encouraged to establish an independent black press.

The report also calls for greater diversification of newspaper ownership. In particular, it recommends that cross-holdings between the two big English-language groups, Argus and South African Associated Newspapers, should be ended.

Much of the report is devoted to a lengthy and repetitive analysis of what it calls "the South African circumstance", chiefly the external military threat posed by the Soviet Union and the internal subversive threat posed by alleged Soviet proxies, which include academic, academic and press critics of apartheid as well as black movements.

A large section of the press, the report complains, is dedicated to intensifying South Africa's "pariah status" and to the "substitution of a radically different political and socio-economic order for that now prevailing in South Africa".



## Frenzied killer strangled yachtsman

Mr Michael Crocker, aged 42 (right), who was strangled on board his yacht in the Caribbean, with his wife Trisha and Mr David Brownjohn, who helped to build the yacht.

Trinidad police said yesterday that they believed the strangled man had reacted in a frenzy of fear after boarding the boat to rob it.

He stabbed Mr David Drake, aged 40, in the neck. Mr Drake, Lloyds Bank deputy regional general manager in Birmingham, is recovering satisfactorily in hospital.

Mr Randolph Burroughs, the Commissioner of Police for Trinidad and Tobago, is leading the manhunt.

Mrs Crocker was under police

guard yesterday recovering from shock in an hotel in Port of Spain. The British High Commission said she intended to fly home with her husband's body as soon as possible.

The killer surprised the sleeping couples, who had anchored the 30ft sloop Nyn about 500 yards from shore in the Gulf of Paria.

The dream life built by the Crockers lasted only five months after they left Britain for a 10-year world cruise.

Both couples were asleep in their berths when they were awoken by the intruder. Mr Crocker went to investigate and was

confronted by a man wielding a knife and demanding money.

Mrs Crocker gave him \$300, and both couples pleaded with him to go away. Instead, he ordered Mrs Crocker to tie up her husband and the Drakes. He became impatient at her nervous attempts to tie up her husband and he began to do it himself.

As the man tightened the ropes Mr Crocker yelled out to the others: "Jump overboard". Before anyone could move the man lashed out, slashing Mr Drake's throat. Then in his frenzied attempt to tie Mr Crocker, he strangled him.

## Defiant Ecevit freed from detention

From Our Correspondent Ankara, Feb 1

Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister, emerged today from two months in prison, making clear that his fighting spirit was unaffected.

Mr Ecevit, a social democrat, was sent to prison by a military court for allegedly violating a ban imposed by the military rulers, on public statements by former politicians.

He was said to have distributed a statement to the foreign press containing his replies to the charges presented by General Kenan Evren, the head of state, against pre-coup political leaders to justify the dissolution of the political parties last October.

Arriving at his home to a loud reception by his friends and former party followers, Mr Ecevit told the foreign press corps that though he was discharged from the prison, "so long as the limitations on my freedom continue, I feel in prison everywhere."

Defending the freedom of thought and expression, which he said was a means of achieving humane solutions to human problems "without which a society is bound to stagnate and a majority is doomed to exploitation and indignity."

"The will for freedom and democracy shall peacefully break through all obstacles

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Two saved from ice by Britons

An RAF officer and four soldiers drove across a frozen Norwegian lake today to save a father and son who had been fishing through a hole in the ice when it cracked beneath them.

The pair were floundering in the water of Lake Voss, near Bergen while other fishermen looked on helplessly, afraid to go to cross the ice. Lieutenant John Dunagate, aged 42, of Welton, Lincolnshire, jumped into his Snowcat tracked vehicle and drove nearly a quarter of a mile across the ice.

With him was his team from the Royal Signals. They pulled the man from the water, wrapped them in blankets and then drove back across the ice to an ambulance.

### E German plea to disarm

Berlin. — East Germany's Protestant Church, the only important body in the country not state-controlled, has called for moves towards unilateral disarmament, authoritative Church sources said.

The move came in a report by Bishop Wenzel Krusche, approved at a national synod last weekend from which the East German Government barred Western reporters.

### Kurds release Austrians

Vienna. — Three Austrians taken hostage by Kurdish nationalists in Iraq last November have been released, the Austrian Foreign Ministry said. Herr Stephen Schmidt, Herr Otto Stern and Herr Walter Brendinger were working for an Austrian construction firm when they were kidnapped.

### British heart man better

Peking. — Mr Leslie Applewhite, the British engineer whose heart stopped beating for 55 minutes while he was being treated for a heart attack, has left Xian in north-western China where he was in hospital.

A British Embassy spokesman said that Mr Applewhite, aged 27, was on his way to Peking and would fly home on Thursday.

### Pyrenees border traffic blocked for fourth day

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, Feb 1

Road traffic between Spain and France remained almost at a standstill today for the fourth day in a row, as a result of a work-to-rule by French customs officials and roadblocks organized by lorry drivers angered at the delays.

A written assurance from the French authorities, that the passage of vehicles would be allowed to speed up, was delivered yesterday to the civil governor of the Spanish border province of Guipuzcoa. A few of the thousands of lorries waiting on both sides of the frontier began moving past a customs point at Irun-Hendaye, on one of the main routes, at about one minute early today.

However, soon after midday the French customs officials were authorizing

### Wine war bubbles over again

From Ian Murray Brussels, Feb 1

The European Commission wants France to explain why it reimposed import controls on Italian wine on Friday.

The move ends the uneasy truce in the wine war between the two countries which erupted last autumn and for which France still has to face two cases before the European Court for imposing a three-month ban.

The latest French action comes after a week during which angry wine growers along the Mediterranean coast began smashing barrels of imported Italian wine because it was for sale at below French prices.

On the face of it, however, the Commission feels that the ban is against the basic EEC principle which allows the free circulation of goods — hence its demand for an explanation.

M Claude Villain, Director General for Agriculture, gave a warning to the French farming lobby at the weekend in a television interview. France should understand, he said, that 45 per cent of its agricultural produce was exported and Italy was its best customer.

"Simply say that you have to be careful if you take measures which, on the one hand are forbidden by the treaty of Rome, and on the other which run the risk, if they drag Italy into retaliation, of serious consequences for French agriculture."

The French wine growers' protests last week arose from a sudden surge in imports of stronger Italian wine used for blending in France. This was almost certainly because French table wine bottlers were seeking to avoid paying a new tax of 5 francs (50p) a hectolitre on heavier wines, which came into force today.

□ The taste for wine continued to grow in Britain last year, with a 15 per cent growth in the sale of light wines according to latest statistics from the Wine Development Board (the Press Association reports). But Britain still remained the lowest wine consumer in Europe, except for Ireland.

The light wine sector was the only one in the drinks market to show any growth last year, not because people were drinking more but because more people were drinking wine.

About 25 million are now drinking wine in Britain, some of them only about a bottle a month. Although light wine sales are up, the amount still averages only two and a half glasses a person a week.

It's the same old story, reverberating emptily about in drab, chilly stations; meaningless excuses for unpardonable inefficiencies.

When we were invited to design an integrated audio-visual communications system for the new Tyne and Wear Metro, we decided to tackle the injury and the insult together.

In its entirety, the system will greatly reduce the likelihood of delays. But when they are unavoidable, at least you'll hear about them quickly and clearly.

A total of 432 loudspeakers (most of them high-quality 30 watt units) will broadcast announcements over each of the forty-two stations.

Fifteen stations will be continuously scanned by eighty-six closed circuit TV cameras.

And fourteen will be provided with a two-way communication point, serving as a combined emergency alarm system and passenger enquiry terminal.

The entire system will be monitored

and co-ordinated at a Control Centre in South Gosforth.

You could call it the acceptable face of the microchip.

We feel the same sense of corporate satisfaction when a pilot learns to fly a new aeroplane without so much as leaving the ground, on a Rediffusion flight simulator.

Or a sailor, days from land, pinpoints his position to within 200 metres, using a Rediffusion navigation system.

Or whenever a businessman punches the keys on his desktop System Alpha Teleputer terminal and gains instant access to information it might have taken him days to acquire in the past.

And indeed, whenever the comfort, enjoyment and convenience of people anywhere are enhanced by our work in the interrelated worlds of entertainment and communication.

**REDIFFUSION**

**"RHUBARB RHUBARB RHUBARB REGRETS  
BLAH BLAH BLAH CRACKLE HISS HOWL  
BULL BULL BULL PASSENGERS RHUBARB  
CRACKLE BLAH BLAH BLAH BULL BULL  
BUZZ BUZZ HOWL HISS CRACKLE DELAY,,**

How often have you heard these immortal words?



## Fashion: Suzy Menkes on Claire Bloom's style



## Facing the limelight

"In a way one never changes, although I'd be an idiot to feel exactly the same inside", says Claire Bloom. "Everybody still feels like a child. And that is especially true when you are an actress and your whole life is 'let's pretend'."

It is exactly 30 years since Claire Bloom stepped into *Limelight*, the tender late-Chaplin film that pinioned her as a star.

"Sometimes it is hard to remember how one felt then", she says. "A lot of dates blur. But 1952 was special for me. In the same year *Limelight* came out, I played Juliet at the Old Vic and my father died. It was a demarcation line for me between child and growing up. That's why I call the book *Limelight and After*," her autobiography comes out next month (published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson).

Visually, Claire Bloom is extraordinarily unchanged, the pure, pained classical profile erupting suddenly into impish laughter. Though other women would judge her an absolute beauty, she claims that she "misses by a long way". She rated Vivien Leigh, her partner in *Duel of Angels*, as the real beauty of her generation of actresses.

"She was extraordinary. No emotion ever showed on her face. I once acted with her when she was going through a difficult, unhappy time and was often in tears. Most of us when we cry get puffy, red eyes. With Vivien Leigh, the tears just lay on her cheeks like diamonds."

Claire Bloom shares with all actresses thrown up by the star system the sense that she owes it to her public to look her best.

Her ideal image of herself is to "look chic rather than romantic, in something wonderfully cut and French, perhaps from Chloé and in black and white". Her taste in clothes is basically classic with a lot of black in her wardrobe, especially at night. She arrived at the studio in a simple black cashmere



sweater, plain skirt and flirty black patent shoes. But she swooped immediately on the most colourful plumage, a jade-green Jean Muir dress with a raspberry-ripple suede jacket and Caroline Charles's pillar-box red, ruffled blouse. ("I used to have this idea of myself as a neat old lady with a little black dress and snow-white hair, but now it's coming nearer. I'm not so keen.")

She is just 50. "Of course it is a landmark and I don't like it. But 30 was the worst. I came out in a rash on my neck for weeks, until I realised that nothing had really changed." She doesn't enjoy the idea that she must now play "old woman" parts. While her public admired the icy elegance of her Lady Marchmain in *Brideshead Revisited*, she hated with a passion the 1920s fashions she wore.

"I think I looked wonderful as Lady Marchmain," she explains. "But I hated the

clothes because I looked old. I have a curvy figure and nice waist, and those twenties jackets with the ugly way they fall at the front is a bad look for me. I think it helped my characterization. But I found it hard to come to terms with the way I looked, except at the end when I realized that it had worked. I admit that I am very vain, I want to look young and pretty."

Claire Bloom announces that she has never succeeded in finding a wardrobe mistress to create wonderful clothes that can then be absorbed into her own wardrobe. Her recent classical parts such as Catherine of Aragon in television's *Henry VIII* hardly lend themselves to Fulham pavements or to the quiet Connecticut home where she lives with author Philip Roth for part of the year.

"Over there it is a great relief not to bother about clothes. I'm not a country

type. Some women look divine in tweeds and sweaters and I look foul."

Does she dress for her man and care what he thinks about her clothes? "I should say! But the man in my life at the moment happens to be totally uninterested in clothes and never comments on what I wear. He hates me to dress up and I've never dared to tell him how much I spend on clothes."

Claire Bloom has plenty of passionate dislikes. One of them is the live theatre.

"I hate, hate, hate the theatre now, going out there night after night. Television suits my life, anybody's life — so much better."

Her positive taste in clothes is hard to define. In colour it is a Renaissance tapestry of warm reds, burgundies and amethysts ("never brown, I look like a brown blob, and not blue.")

She says that her 21-year-old daughter Anna (by her marriage to Rod Steiger)

accuses her of buying boring accessories ("shoes always in beige or black") although she travels so much that she thinks she cannot have a pantechonicon "with thousands of different bits and pieces." Anna, a music student at the Guildhall, who lives at home, clearly has a needling influence on her mother's cautious taste.

Jean Muir's shapely dress with its ruffled neck looked elegant and stylish. So did Chloé's elegant and romantic creamy wool separates topped by a dashing cape. Then the public image of Claire Bloom emerged as she swept her newly styled hair off her face, wrapped a pearly choker around her neck and let the cloak fall in a Greek column of folds from her throat.

"Very glamorous and how the public want to see an actress," said Claire Bloom firmly. "Do you think I'll have time to get the potatoes on my way home?"

Above left: Jean Muir's jade-green, graph-checked, pure-silk dress, about £345 from Lucienne Phillips, Knightsbridge; Chic of Hampstead; Harrods; Barry Hooper, Torquay; Pollyanna, Barnsley; Olive Walton, Birmingham; Stella Nova, Edinburgh. Raspberry pink-suede, pleat-shouldered jacket by Jean Muir, about £285, from Lucienne Phillips; Simpsons; Harvey Nichols; Joan Ponting, Birmingham; Hobby, Cardiff; Brown Thomas, Dublin. Pearly hoop earrings £18.50 from Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3, and Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Above right: Chloé's clotted-cream, fine-wool blouse £110; soft skirt £172; and swashbuckling cloak £182 from Chloé, 173 New Bond Street, W1. Black-suede, braided belt from Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche, 113 New Bond Street, W1. Black and white pearly necklet £36 and earrings £12.50 from Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3, and Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Above centre: Pearly choker with bold deco clasp £68; drop pearl and marcasite earrings £14.50. All from the new collection at Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, SW3, and Liberty, Regent Street, W1. Cream cloak by Chloé.

Photographs by Clive Arrowsmith

Hair cut and styled by John Frieda

Make-up by Teresa Fairminer for Estée Lauder Prescriptives

Face: Moisture Protective Tinted Cream, light tint loose powder.

Peach Buff Powder Cheek Colour

Lips: French Fawn Sports Lipstick with Terracotta Lip Gloss

Eyes: Bremen Blue powder shadow outlined with True Brown.

Highlighted with Venetian Gold. Mascara: Black Intensity

## Demand for murder trial at inquest on dingo case baby

From Douglas Aitout, Melbourne, Feb 1

The counsel assisting the coroner investigating the case of the baby whose parents say she was taken from a central Australian camp site by a dingo, recommended today that the mother should be sent for trial for murder.

Mr Des Sturges told the Alice Springs coroner that the evidence showed Mrs Alice Chamberlain's daughter Azaria had been unlawfully killed. He said that Mr Michael Chamberlain, the baby's father, should be sent for trial as an accessory after the fact of a murder.

The Chamberlains were visibly shaken by Mr Sturges's submission. Mr Chamberlain remained for several minutes with his head in his hands and was clearly distressed. Mr Gerry Galvin, the coroner, adjourned the court until tomorrow after hearing the submission.

The small courtroom was packed for the resumption of "this second inquest on the baby, who died in August, 1980, after disappearing from a tent at a site near Ayers Rock."

At the first inquest in February this year, a coroner

accepted that the baby, whose body was never found, was taken by a dingo. A new inquest was called after further evidence was presented to Northern Territory police.

A forensic expert today told the inquest that foetal blood was found on a camera bag belonging to the parents. Mrs Joy Kuhl, the only witness today, said she did extensive tests on the bag lasting four days, she said baby hair was also found inside the bag.

Mr Sturges told the coroner today: "Your worship does not have to determine whether or not murder was committed by Mrs Chamberlain, or that Mr Chamberlain was an accessory after the fact. All you have to do is decide if there is a prime facie case." He said there was sufficient evidence to request that the matter be brought before a judge and jury.

"The evidence shows that on August 17, shortly after the disappearance of the baby, who died in August, 1980, after disappearing from a tent at a site near Ayers Rock."

At the first inquest in February this year, a coroner

## Peace plan advanced by Seoul

From Jacqueline Reditt, Seoul, Feb 1

South Korea has followed up the recent unification formula it proposed to North Korea with a list of 20 pilot projects that would open up direct communications between the two Koreas after more than 30 years of separation.

In an apparent attempt to emphasize the determination and sincerity of President Chun Doo-hwan's latest peace offensive, Mr Son Ja-shik, the Minister of the National Unification Board, issued a statement today asking the North Koreans to open their North border.

The statement renewed a request to the North for a preliminary meeting of cabinet-rank officials with a view to arranging talks between President Chun and his North Korean counterpart, President Kim Il-sung. It also contained 20 proposals for establishing two-way communications as a positive posture rather than "merely paying lip service to unification."

The proposals seek the opening of a highway between Seoul and Pyongyang, and a postal service. They include the reunion of separated families — there are an estimated seven million people in the South — free travel through the border village of Panmunjom for all foreigners and Koreans who live abroad, the complete removal of all military facilities from the demilitarized zone and a direct telephone link between leading military officials of each side.

The statement also suggested that the harbours of Inchon in the South and Chinnampo in the North be opened, that joint fishery and tourism zones be established and for sports, cultural, economic, ecological and trading exchanges to be arranged.

Private versus state schools  
France faces risk of new war in education

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 1

Very gingerly this week, the Socialist Government has begun to tackle one of the most explosive items in its catalogue of reforms — the "creation of a great public unified and secular system of national education, without confessional or monopoly" in accordance with the electoral promises of M François Mitterrand.

It is a matter on which the feelings of thousands of French families run very high. For behind the deliberately vague terminology loom the whole question of the nationalization of private

He has begun dealing with the problem consulting the representatives of the different associations and unions, starting with the Catholic Schools Association, and the powerful Fen, the Federation of National Education, the French teachers' union.

These consultations are likely to go on until Easter at the very least, when the Minister will have to show his hand one way or the other.

M Savary is under considerable pressure from the Fen, which, with a return of a large number of its members to parliament in the last elections, comprises a powerful and distinctly secularist force, and has substantial support in the Cabinet itself. It is determined to hold the Government strictly to its electoral promises, even at the risk of reviving the schools war.

Its leaders have told the minister that the unified and secular nature of the future education system ruled out the "separate character" of religious and private schools. For the first time in many years they openly attacked the Catholic hierarchy in France, accusing it, along with conservative governments of the past, of responsibility for a situation of conflict between the state and private schools systems.

On the other side, the Catholic Schools Association, backed by the French bishops, will fight, if necessary, to defend the autonomy with the state system which private schools enjoy. Father Paul Guideret, the secretary general of the association, told the minister that it would not yield on five points: free choice for families, the autonomy of the schools, freedom to appoint teachers, free choice of curricula.

## Warning of homosexual witch hunt

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong, Feb 1

A secret investigation is being conducted in Hongkong to list the names of "known homosexuals," a move which has caused a great deal of concern in the civil service. A confidential directive defines a "known homosexual" as someone of either sex who has been convicted of a homosexual offence or who has formally acknowledged being a practising homosexual.

"Existing policy," it is emphasized, "insists that no such persons, regardless of rank, should be appointed to the civil service."

The investigation has aroused controversy, particularly because it includes women homosexuals despite the fact that lesbianism is not illegal in Hongkong.

Even the names of "suspected homosexuals" have to be referred automatically to Mr Martin Rowlands, the Civil Service Secretary, "for advice."

Mr James Lethard, criminologist and sociologist at Hongkong University, has given a warning that the directive could "lead to a witch hunt in government" and "backfire by itself provoking adverse publicity abroad and possible questions at Westminster."

He also said that "no such policy has ever been set down in writing before."

Mr Rodney Griffiths, of the Hongkong University School of Law, described the employment policy laid down in the directive as "pretty unenlightened but consistent with the present law."

## Prisoners of conscience

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The Government Secretary has declined to discuss "any questions about internal staffing matters," but it is known that a subcommittee of the Law Reform Commission is collecting data for a review of Hongkong's homosexuality laws.

Large numbers of Germans have asked to emigrate to West Germany, with which Romania has emigration agreements, yet visas to leave the country continue to be refused.

Goetz Friedrich, director of Der Spiegel in Stuttgart, is a prisoner of conscience, but it is not clear if he is a prisoner of the window. He has been in the prison since 1979, after being arrested by the Securitate. He is a member of the German minority in Romania, and he has been refused a passport to travel to West Germany.

At the end of a long and painful journey, he is now in a Romanian prison. He is a member of the German minority in Romania, and he has been refused a passport to travel to West Germany.

## India-Pakistan talks raise hopes

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Feb 1

India and Pakistan are to continue talking about a non-aggression pact. That was the outcome of the talks between the two countries which ended here today on a note of guarded optimism.

Mr Asghar Shahi, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, returned to Islamabad saying his discussions with Mr Narasimha Rao, his Indian counterpart, has "not in any way been discouraging."

Mr Rao said the continu-

ation of the talks would lead to a non-aggression pact. The discussions will be resumed in Islamabad later this month. They will involve high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials and will focus on the nuts-and-bolts aspects of matters the foreign ministers have agreed.

Their joint statement today said "the air has been sufficiently cleared to allow talks on the substance of an agreement."

After three years there has been peace for 10 years, but this has been marred by occasional minor clashes on the border of disputed Kashmir.

هكذا من الأصل



THE ARTS

Television

A decent burial

The death of a dossier is the saddest thing, but it was Irish Night, too, on Police (BBC 1) so a fumbling ascription tempered the sadness. One of the gentlemen across the road had been found dead at the foot of the stairs, had he? Well, no, said the lady from the better side of the street — she was pursuing of lips not perhaps on show, but certainly implied — she could not really say whether one of them had walked with a stick, they were all so drunk all the time what difference did it make? There are moments, every week, when Police should be called "public".

The problem, of course, was shaking Mickie the Briskie's fellow-dossers out of their bovine, alcoholic daze enough to reveal which of them, if any, had given him a push. Nobody made a bit of sense first time round, so the house was sealed off, "overnight accommodation" was arranged at the Station (with Full English Breakfast) and further pictures withheld for 24 hours. The next day, it was clear that they had been trying to articulate before. Sentences rose gently and trailed off, gazes were met or evaded, big hands sweat, opened and shut. It was no good: to the Chief Inspector's displeasure, they all had to be sent home. The Coroner was called in and the body, said to have been helped to build Aldermaston Research Station and to have been sustained in a late life of liquor by revenue from property in Ireland, was decently buried. Entrancing.

Horizon (BBC2) asked "What happened to the Energy Crisis?" and the topographer Woolley surveyed the current state of resources and research into finite and alternative forms of power to the point where the information piled up into what was described in the programme itself as a fatiguing load. Was nuclear energy necessary? Could we employ Swedish methods of inter-seasonal storage in our more equable climate? Could we follow the French example in Brittany and build a barrage across the Severn? Then the geothermal energy in Cornwall and Passive Solar Design. And what about offshore wind farms, Bristol Cylinders ("submerged but buoyant") and the Lancaster inflatable Bag?

In Central Milton Keynes — no one more seems to be calling it — eight houses enjoyed experimental energy the behaviour and response to domestic requirements of which were precisely recorded on a blue board of terminals marked "3rd Bedroom", "Vibrating Centre", "Edge" (and could almost swear "Cook") — but then people expect that kind of serious attention in CMK. Throughout the programme statistics stunned one on the head and hurried away in the mind, while a few lingered to puzzle. Enormous windmills, for example, two hundred feet high and three hundred feet across, would only provide electricity for six thousand people which, given the size of the things, did not seem nearly enough. Fatigue-inducing load was more skilfully avoided on this occasion by Panorama (BBC1), in which Philip Tibenham and Tom Bower managed to make a programme about foreign policy and international relations — specifically those of the United States (dormant) and Israel (active) towards Iran that had everything from hawkish statements by Israeli officials on the need to overthrow Khomeini from within before chaos and Communism follow his death and American caution from former CIA men and Ambassadors still in shock from the mob-trauma of Tehran. The melodrama of arms-runnings, secret deals and disguised airports of origin broadened to a clear account of opposing positions that gave equal plausibility to both sides.

Michael Ratcliffe

Galleries

Representational relish of the master collagist

Kurt Schwitters in England

Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal

James Cowie: The Artist at Work

Fine Art Society

Jean Marchand

Christopher Hull Gallery

Sickert and His Printmaker Friends

Parkin Gallery

Two major exhibitions dedicated to the same artist in the course of four months might seem disproportionate — even when they are some small posthumous compensation for half a lifetime's neglect. But Kurt Schwitters is an interesting and varied enough artist to stand up happily to so much scrutiny, and in any case the whole thrust of the show Kurt Schwitters in England, at the Abbot Hall Gallery, Kendal, until February 28, is so different from the memorable London show at Marlborough Fine Art last October that the enterprise completely justifies itself.

In Kendal, as the title suggests, the accent is entirely upon Schwitters' work while he was living in the Lake District after he had been released from internment as an enemy alien early in the war. Here too, despite the unlikely circumstances, Schwitters continued to work on his vaguely Dadaist projects, turning out a series of small-scale works of local interest like *Mr Routledge* (1941), his admirable flower-piece *Was his heart in them?* You need only look at some of the splendid

again during the first stage of his exile, in Norway. He also made collages and painted abstracts. But his principal occupation was painting portraits and landscapes.

One might suppose that this was out of dire necessity and responded to no artistic urgings of his own. But, though he did indeed sometimes paint them for local tradesmen, he filled them with the basic necessities of life, or as a friendly return for hospitality, it is quite clear that he never, at any period in his career, looked down on representational art or felt it was any less natural and valid a part of his activity than the most advanced and incomprehensible.

Which is very reasonable, since he was in fact a thoroughly accomplished representational painter, who obviously worked in the traditional forms not only with facility but with great and painterly realism. Finally, one may feel that the area of unique mastery is collage, which he arguably did better, and certainly more magically and less literally, than anyone else. His abstract paintings too have their admirers, but they seldom seem quite right to me: too much like Theosophical thought-forms struggling ineffectually to be born. (Though I must admit that some of the smaller ones in the Kendal show are wonderful: the two tiny *Owl Paintings* of 1945 and 1947, making their effect with just a few discreetly distributed curves and dabs of colour, or *The Pool*, from the mid-Forties, which arranges its not quite decipherable shapes in a manner recalling Amalie Gorge's *Le Lac*.)

But the fully figurative work inhabits a different world. A number of the landscapes, and one or two of the portraits, such as *Mrs Horner*, suggest an unsuspected affinity with Kokoschka. But in most of them he looks like a good, not quite the placeable Post-Impressionist. The confident, saturated brush-strokes of the *Lakeland Scene* (c.1946), a subtle harmony in greens, or the more choppy, dynamic style of *The Bridge House, Ambleside* (1948), are very much of a piece with his briskly sketched portraits of local friends like *Mr Routledge* in the Forties, his slightly surrealistic fantasies and weird symbolic pieces like *Noon*

sketches he was always doing of scenes and people to see that it was Perverse to the end, he refused to be categorized. Or are we perverse to want that?

We have no chance to make the acquaintance of a neglected-but-unclassifiable artist closer to home — our home, not his — in London with the Fine Art Society's presentation of the Scottish Art Council's show *James Cowie: The Artist at Work* (until February 19). Cowie only looks unclassifiable, in that he went single-mindedly in his own direction throughout the Thirties, when no one else in England or Scotland was doing likewise; but seen in an international context such as last year's big Centre Pompidou exhibition *Les Réalistes 1919-1939* (not that he was, except mentally by a few British visitors), he makes perfect sense. His cool-toned, level-headed brand of detailed realism can immediately be compared with the work of the German painters of the Neue Sachlichkeit group, or some of the equally neglected French artists who took themselves off the Ecole-de-Paris highroad to abstraction around the same time.

For all that, he still remains a uniquely disturbing artist, isolated by his temperament and personal vision rather than by any eccentricities of style. Few who saw his amazing *The Schizophrenic* (1934-35) in the Hayward's Thirties show will have forgotten it. The two girls sit side-by-side, not so much talking as looking towards each other in silent question; behind them is a classical cast, and they are holding what look like smoking pipes. It is at once intimate and monumental; they look as undefended and impregnable as the *Mona Lisa*. And this same feeling of *tempus mortis*, of waiting for Godot, impregnates many of Cowie's paintings of people, four of the most important among which are included in this show along with a fascinating array of sketches and preparatory studies.

To my taste he is a little bit more telling when the mystery of his paintings remains implicit and indefinable, when, as increasingly in the Forties, he begins to sketch slightly surrealistic fantasies and weird symbolic pieces like *Noon*



Schwitters's "Mr Routledge" (left), a brisk (and perverse?) sketch of friendship; and detail from Sickert's etching "The New Tie", the work of a still-underestimated giant

(1946), with nude figures disposed ambiguously in realistic landscape, the sense of airlessness becomes too oppressive, the ability to disturb too calculated. But even here there is no doubting the force behind his work; the passing years make him look more and more important.

While we are no the subject of neglect, it is well worth taking a look at the show of oils, watercolours and drawings by Jean Marchand at the Christopher Hull Gallery, 670 Fulham Road, until February 13. Marchand was a near-contemporary of Derain, and passed through many of the same stylistic phases. Many competent judges (Roger Fry among them) thought as highly of his work, and yet though in London both O'Hana and Crane Kalman have constituted themselves his advocates, here and elsewhere he has sunk into obscurity since his death in 1941, aged 59. Quite possibly he never consistently fulfilled his potential (but then

there are many who think the same of Derain after his brief and dazzling Fauve period), but there is a considerable body of worthwhile work, as can be seen here best in some excellent drawings of French landscape, town and mountain, which have an elusive Cubist flavour without pushing too far into analysis. It is ultimately the senses rather than the mind which tell. And that, for Marchand's sort of painter, is just as it should be.

Certainly Sickert, in this country, has never suffered from neglect — or not overall, though the recent show of his later work at the Hayward has demonstrated (to some) how far his last years have been underestimated. But Sickert was a giant, and inevitably those around a giant tend to get overshadowed. The main discovery of Sickert and His Printmaker Friends at Michael Parkin's in Mowlem Street until February 13 is not Sickert's prints — they are of course very good,

but then we know that already — but inevitably the work of the friends.

Some of them, like Whistler and Manet, were quite grand and successful in their own right; others, like Walter Greaves and Thomas Way, were lesser members of Whistler's circle rather than Sickert's. But the prints of one is tempted to call them Sickert's hand-maidens, for that gives a just enough impression of the relationship — Sylvia Gosse, Wendela Boreel and Enid Bagnold can frequently take us by surprise and are on occasion as good as those of the master himself. Not consistently, though there is the catch. But it would still be far more agreeable to have an etching by Wendela Boreel at her best, as in *Mornington Crescent from Sickert's Window* or *Window Shopping* — *Moses Stevens, Berkeley Square*, than one in which Sickert nods.

John Russell Taylor

London debuts

Pianistic enterprise

Few pianists arrive at their debuts with the enterprise and imagination shown by Alan Weiss in the first half of his recital, a judicious choice of sonatas by Haydn and Schubert surrounding Weber's *Variazioni*. The Haydn sonata, the C major work of 1789, was made as revolutionary as its date, with the first movement expressively laden with questioning lines, the second more comic than brilliant. Schubert's D major Sonata also gained from Mr Weiss's willingness to chase character even at the expense of continuity, to plead individually for each theme from a different point of view. His alternation in the first movement of bald statement and reflection was very effective, but so too was the mobile lyricism he brought to the slow movement and the finale, both of which became fantasies of song and agility.

In Weber, quite properly, the focus was closer, and Mr Weiss used all his considerable powers of articulation to examine each wisp of a musical phrase, each chord and even on occasion each note. Nothing of this kind was possible for the Brekka Ensemble, a group as odd in formation as in name. For they studiously avoided what masterpieces are available to mezzo-soprano, clarinet, viola and piano. Instead we had a curious miscellany of Latin-American and east European material, together with a 25-year-old sonata rescued by Charles Camilleri for its belated baptism and a collection of songs by Spohr, his opus 103, in which voice and clarinet were made more to interfere with than support each other, and which three-

tened to amble pleasantly for ever.

This dismal choice of repertoire was especially regrettable when the performers had so much more to offer. The mezzo, Jennifer Bolam, showed off a young voice of surprising versatility, able to move smoothly from winning brightness to soulful gloom in characterizing the separate numbers of Dvorak's *Gypsy Songs*, but she would not have been obliged to try so hard if she had sung them in English rather than Czech. Lynn Holman, on clarinet, had a good firm tone and enough musicianship to make much of mediocre stuff.

The Hertz Trio from Canada, with the much richer piano trio repertoire to draw on, did well to base their recital on two big romantic works, Brahms's C major Trio and Arsenky's D minor, for their strengths lay in a full, unified tone, secure movement together and admirably firm yet flexible phrasing, particularly from the violin and cello when they were playing together in octaves. By way of contrast they offered the terse and turbulent second act of *Le Grand Archer*, one of the many gifted women composers who flourish in Canada as nowhere else. This piece had been thoroughly mastered by the ensemble, and it showed them in a rather light, warm more attention on clarity of counterpoint as the two strings imitated the pianist's movement, for instance, and with quicker lines of command communication flashing among the players.

Paul Griffiths

Opera

Tensions of an empire in decline

Götz Friedrich's new production of *Der Rosenkavalier* in Stuttgart is a stimulating affair, but it stops well short of throwing the romance out of the window. He moves the story to the later days of the Habsburgs, giving a usually absent ring of chronological truth to the waltzes and hinting here and there at the nervousness of an empire in decline.

When the curtain rises the Marschallin has a look of post-sexual satisfaction: Octavian is exhausted beside her. A portrait of the Field Marshal glowers down. Part of the Marschallin's problem is clear. She has married a much older man. The Field Marshal, on the other hand, has possibly married beneath himself, for his wife can be sharp with servants in public, is not always sure of herself, is quick to anger.

At the end of Act I there is no business with the mirror. Instead, the Marschallin casts a fearful look around her boudoir, and leaves.

Silvio Varviso, whose conducting is one of the joys of the evening, is at his most sensitive at this point.

Friedrich's staging of Act III is original and effective. The rendezvous takes place in an ante-room off a festooned ballroom where couples in carnival costumes provide a dancing background. Octavian need not pay for the band after all. His horrors are gleefully manipulated by children in the attic above. For the trio, ante-room, ballroom and dancers fade, and the actors are alone on a candle-lit stage.

The Marschallin is Karen Armstrong, accurate in characterization according to Friedrich's realization, musically less convincing, with a tendency to start under the note and an occasional intrusive vibrato, but not always holding her own in ensembles. Octavian is seen as a recklessly primitive character, a gangling youth of gauche expression and clumsy movement, transformed into manhood at a stroke by an ennobling new love. The gifted Doris Soffel sings and acts with fierce dedication. Baron Ochs becomes a lovable, teddy-bear landowner (Helmut Berger-Tuna), never cast down, off to tumble the next milkmaid when the game is up.

More traditional in conception is the new *Der Rosenkavalier* at Düsseldorf's Deutsche Oper am Rhein, directed by Otto Schenk. As ever, he moves events fluently. Yet there are times when he seems to be seeking something unsaid in his memorable Munich production of a decade ago, and the effect is sometimes effortful. This is most noticeable in the Marschallin's exit. In Munich, the Marschallin (Gwyneth Jones) broke our hearts by a simple tilt of the head and a hand outstretched momentarily for Octavian. At Düsseldorf, the Marschallin and Von Faunstein go over to the lovers for elaborate hand-

shakes. The bitter sweetness of renunciation is blunted, and Von Faunstein's "Gnd halt so, die Jung' Len" and the Marschallin's poignant "Ja, ja" become pointless. Judith Beckmann's Marschallin looks subtly young enough to fear the passing years, and is beautifully sung. Her Octavian is Trude Hesse Schmidt, ardent and impulsive, eloquently rich singing reaching its zenith in a strong line in the trio. Ochs (Karl Ridderbusch) is a pompous womanizer grabbing a last chance, disillusioned and suddenly aged in his dismissal.

It is in Hiroshi Wakasugi's conducting that the Düsseldorf production moves away from tradition, with the score treated almost in a chamber music style. The textures are transparent, detail which is often swamped is exposed, relevant motifs have a telling impact. It serves Von Hofmannsthal well.

Kenneth Loveland

Season's Greetings

Greenwich

Discussing the bad old days of fortnightly rep, John Osborne's autobiography spends a couple of paragraphs on the mass of long-forgotten formula comedies about family reunions. *Season's Greetings* is Alan Ayckbourn's contribution to this humble form.

It is Christmas Eve. Uncle Harvey is slumped in the best armchair watching an old film on television. Belinda is decorating the tree while her husband looks after the drinks with a business cron.

Uncle Bernard is threatening to put on his annual puppet play. And you know it is only a matter of time before the festive facade begins to

This being an Ayckbourn piece, there is no point in spilling any more of the plot. We are back in his middle-class family circle of neglected wives, self-preoccupied husbands and relatives with a few problems and obsessive hobbies, where everyone hurts each other and nobody is to blame. What counts, as always, is the ingenuity of whatever new pattern he manages to weave from the familiar threads.

In these terms, the play is not in his top flight. He sets himself too main problems: how to write about Christmas without bringing children on, and how to release the feelings of the frustrated ladies. He tackles the first by keeping the kids in bed and the second by allowing Belinda's sister Rachel to bring a young novelist, with whom she is slightly acquainted, to stay with the family. This is

an unlikely move, and as Clive the novelist is there mainly to arouse erotic interest and suspicion, he comes over as a blankly passive figure. Nigel Havers gives him a nice line in self-deprecating charm, but it is a rotten part.

Otherwise, Ayckbourn's production is a treat from start to finish. Its characters take on an ever-strengthening definition while simultaneously engaging in an increasingly concentrated action. The more imprisoned by events, the more free they become. To take one case, Peter Vaughan's Harvey has given all the children guns for Christmas. He is a former security guard and before long he resumes that role — officiously patrolling the landing during the intrigue-ridden hours of darkness, and finally pulling a gun on the departing Clive.

The night scene, in which Clive plausibly submits to an alcoholic wife, the virginal Rachel (Marcia Warren, choking back her venom with a bright smile) and finally Belinda, whom he really wants, brings the main comic explosion.

This scene winds up the first act. Thereafter, though the puppet show of Uncle Bernard (Bernard Hepton) goes as wrong as you could wish, the comedy cools to a healthy disquiet, ending with snow falling and the party splitting up. It holds on course thanks to the preparatory fun and games. By now, Barbara Ferris, Gareth Hunt, Diane Ball and the rest of Ayckbourn's fine company have taken on such independent life that you care for them for their own sakes.

Irving Wardle

Theatre

Ayckbourn's contribution to a humble form

War Music

Warehouse

I suppose that the theatre started something like this millennia ago, with men declaiming fierce and magical incantations in a ring of rapt listeners. Christopher Logue has made these translations from the *Iliad* for the last 20 years. He and Alan Howard do not look in the least like those Alma-Tadema paintings of bards striking lyres and posing in front of audiences of genteel Victorian ancient Greeks. They make something older and wilder sing to us.

The poems fall into three parts. The oldest, written in 1962, is the killing of Patroclus from Book 16. Next is a conflation of blood and battles from Books 17 and 18, which Logue calls "GEB", in which Logue calls "GEB", in which Achilles comes back into the war, and so Troy falls. They divided the lines about two-thirds to Howard and one-third to Logue. Howard's marvellously versatile organ of a voice did most of the gods and heroes; his gravel-voiced sorcerer's apprentice took narrative and clowns like Agamemnon.

The modern metaphors of rockets at Cape Kennedy or a man being speared as one detaches a sardine from a tin made one sit up; but so did Homer's contemporary metaphors jerk his audience back into the Bronze Age. And when Apollo strikes ill at a nuclear bomb or Achilles, riding to battle, says: "I know I will not make old bones", the hair at the nape of one's neck bristles. It was often as plain and

direct and noble as the real thing. They made a voice come alive across 30 centuries, rather shabby, middle-aged men sitting at a table, standing up and pacing occasionally, and kept us on the edge of our chairs for two hours. Bentley said to Pope: "It is a pretty poem, Mr Pope, but you must not call it Homer." We did better than that on this occasion.

Philip Howard

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

Gate, Battersea

How common it is I cannot say, but coincidence must be ruled out. After the first night of Lou Stein's brave adaptation of the drug-crazed novel *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, one of its creatures came drifting past the Gate Theatre on Battersea Park Road. A late-1960 Cadillac, wide and white with sharp, pointed fins, it was a ghost of the war hunter. Thompson called the White Whale as it ferried him to a convention of narcotics officers, through a desert lake and to the casinos of Las Vegas. It certainly belonged there, probably investigating the treatment of the book.

The car or its driver would have found Mr Stein's handling extremely clever and sympathetic, a mix of the book's crystallized narrative and hallucinatory dialogue that make way for both action and reflection by dividing the Thompson character into two pieces. Mr Thompson himself invented an alter ego, a character

named Raoul Duke who ingested the immense quantities of illegal drugs, alcohol and other that gave his pictures of Las Vegas a peculiar, warped clarity.

Cars and desert highways, the Vegas strip, hotel rooms and many other locations are folded neatly into the tiny theatre above the Latchmere public house. Packed with the scenic tour is the book's mad humour, but a vital ingredient missing. Mr Thompson writes like a demented angel, but he is a rioter as well and Stuart Fox is woefully tame as Duke.

Peter Marinker, as the narrating half, suggests more danger but the outside characterization of Duke's bizarre attorney, Chiswick, is the only thing that carries the threat and insights of the writing.

Ned Chaillet

● Noel & Gerie, Sheridan Morley's anthology based on the lives, letters, plays and songs of Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence, which had one-night charity performances at the May Fair last year, is to be seen at the Theatre Royal, Winchester, on February 14. It then plays for a week at the Hong Kong Arts Festival. Immediately afterwards, on March 1, it will be given at the Ambassador Theatre on Broadway, in a performance in aid of the American Actors' Fund, the first time they have invited an English company. Proceeds from this performance will also go towards the restoration of Coward's old home in Jamaica. Maria Aitken and Gary Bond play the title roles, and Alan Strachan produces.

Records

Gielgud revisits Brideshead

Next month Argo are transferring 30 items from their spoken word record catalogue on to cassette, together with six new recordings, two of which have been given a pre-release.

Sir John Gielgud, already well acquainted with *Brideshead Revisited* via Granada's magnificent television serialisation, reads an abridged version of Evelyn Waugh's novel on SAY 1. The patrician tones, flecked with more than a little melancholy, fit the text ideally. There is one tiny blemish: the naming of the Satternes Charles and Sebastian drink during that blissful May Day in Oxford — but for the rest it is an admirable reminder of the book.

Robert Hardy narrating four Sherlock Holmes stories (SAY 2), and not the best-known ones either, uses rather more characterization than Sir John. Again the diction is immaculate and the adaptation, which really

means abridgement, has been done with considerable skill. Both issues are good casual listening — in the car, in the kitchen perhaps or even as a cassette at bedtime. The packaging is spartan, but the price, at just under £6 for a double cassette, modest.

John Higgins

Award Winning Venice and Gdansk Film Festivals starring Leslie Caron

THE CONTRACT... directed by Krzysztof Zanussi

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Doris Soffel (left) and Karen Armstrong strongly characterizing at Stuttgart









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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WHO IS TO LEAD THE ALLIANCE?

Throughout last year the Social Democrats made a virtue of their collective leadership. How could one leader, it was asked, make an appearance in all the places where it was necessary to drum up support? How could one person take all the decisions required in setting up a new party? What an ingenious arrangement it was to have four leaders instead of one. Perhaps, it was even suggested on one occasion, this temporary convenience might be converted into a permanent system.

No longer. The Social Democrats have realized that they and the alliance will be at a disadvantage until they have agreed on a single leader. Mr William Rodgers has even proposed that they should disperse with the necessity of an election and agree among themselves that Mr Jenkins should be the parliamentary leader, and therefore the potential Prime Minister, and Mrs Williams the president who would lead the party in the country.

If only one candidate were to come forward for each of these posts that would be all right. But it is unlikely that that will happen, and it would be a grave mistake to take any steps that would prevent or deter anyone from offering himself or herself for the leadership. It would be a different matter if a defeated candidate were not to accept the verdict and were therefore to force a succession of leadership contests. It is that prospect that has attracted so much resentment to Mr Benn in the Labour Party. But when a new party is choosing its first leader there can be no question of disloyalty in anybody standing for election. The case for doing so is all the stronger when the candidate represents a distinctive point of view in terms of strategy and policy.

Considerable criticism in the SDP is directed towards the ambitions of Dr Owen. That he is ambitious is be-

yond question. But he does represent a different point of view from Mr Jenkins in two vital respects: he comes from the more radical sector of the party and he is more inclined to keep his distance from the Liberals. There is no good reason therefore why Dr Owen should not put his claim to the test. The same may be said of Mrs Williams, who may not represent such a distinctive viewpoint but who commands more affection within the party and among the general public.

But while Mr Rodgers may have recommended the wrong tactics, he is surely seeking the best outcome. Mr Jenkins would be the wisest choice as parliamentary leader of the SDP. He has a personal authority within the SDP that none of the other challengers possesses, and so would stand the best chance of leading a united party into the election. He has the stature to be recognized more easily than any of the others by the electorate as a potential Prime Minister, and he is the only person who would be generally acceptable to both Liberals and Social Democrats as the leader of the alliance.

This last consideration is critical. The question that will be asked increasingly of the alliance as the election approaches is whether it looks credible as a potential government. To answer that question satisfactorily the alliance must campaign as much as possible in combination, preferably with a joint manifesto and certainly having announced in advance of the election who would be Prime Minister of an alliance government. Partly because he believes in closer cooperation with the Liberals than do Dr Owen and probably Mrs Williams, and because he comes from an older generation, Mr Jenkins would be readily accepted as leader of the alliance by Mr Steel, who would not serve so happily under any other leader of the Social Democrats. Mr Steel

would himself have many supporters as alliance leader, among the general public and from the ranks of the SDP, as well as in the Liberal Party. But it would not be realistic at this stage to expect former Cabinet ministers easily to accept the leadership of a politician in another party who has never yet held office in any government.

Before Mr Jenkins could be elected parliamentary leader he would, of course, have to be in Parliament. The position at the moment is that the SDP is to hold at the end of next week a constitutional convention at which the draft constitution is to be amended and approved. It will then be sent for endorsement in a ballot of all members. In that ballot the members will be asked to choose between two alternative methods of electing the leader: by vote of the parliamentary party or by all the members of the party. As a matter of principle it would be better for the choice to be left to the parliamentary party. The cause of parliamentary democracy is not best served by transferring power away from Parliament to party activists in the country. But whichever method of election is preferred, it will be some months before the SDP can hold a leadership election.

That would give plenty of time for Mr Jenkins to take his seat if he is elected at Hillhead. If he is not elected there, his personal standing would be much diminished and his eligibility would depend on his winning another by-election before the leadership contest. That would be an uncertain prospect. But if he wins at Hillhead Mr Jenkins would be the best person for the Social Democrats and for the alliance. Despite all their difficulties over the allocation of seats, both the SDP and the Liberals would be wise to think of the alliance as well as of themselves. Together they will look a much more convincing proposition in the next election and beyond.

### Lay-off clause in union law

From the Director General of the Institute of Directors  
Sir, Your leading article of January 29 stated that the Employment Bill was flawed by the absence of a clause on lay-offs.

I have no doubt that the problem of strikes by strategically placed groups of workers, to which your proposal is addressed, is serious. But the suggested clause would do nothing to rid industry of a more insidious problem: the existence of the strike mentality. Strikes always involve a breach of contract. If all those at work are to be encouraged to honour their contracts it is hardly consistent to make an exception for employers.

The inclusion of a lay-off clause in the Employment Bill would do just that, because it would enable employers to break the employment contracts of their employees where their work had been halted through no fault of their own but as a result of a strategic strike.

Our concern over your proposal also stems from a fear that it may prove divisive. If a strike takes place in the essential

services or amongst a small group of "key" employees, that is the time, in my experience, for the employer to harness the good will of the majority of his employees in order to overcome the problems. To lay off employees who may have had nothing to do with the original strike in order to minimize the cost of a dispute is likely only to create resentment against the employer and so damage industrial relations.

A better course, and one urged by many other representatives of business would be to give some legal backing to procedure agreements. In this way parties to a dispute would be encouraged to reach a settlement within the framework of voluntary agreements, rather than to threaten the sanction of breach of contract.

An amendment is needed to the Bill, but it is more important that this should be related to procedure agreements than lay-offs.

Yours faithfully,  
WALTER GOLDSMITH,  
Institute of Directors,  
116 Pall Mall, SW1,  
January 29.

### How socialist is the SDP?

From the Reverend Martin Camroux and Mr Robert Lacey  
Sir, Last March, disturbed by the way the Labour Party was being destroyed from within, we resigned to become chairman and secretary of South Hampshire Social Democrats.

We believed that the SDP would break new ground while continuing all that had been best in the tradition of Atlee, Bevan and Gansel, seeing it in David Owen's words as "not a Labour Party mark 2, but a Labour Party mark 4".

From the beginning the SDP began to betray the hopes vested in it. The expensive national launch was full of swish PR and bland clichés. Once out of the Labour Party the Gang of Four began to move rapidly to the right. The commitment to equality, central to socialism, was soon compromised by the decision to retain the deeply divisive systems of private health and education. The long-held commitment to economic planning was replaced by a rabid enthusiasm for a deodorized version of laissez-faire capitalism. Quickly, proposals were brought forward for far-ranging curbs on organized labour with no corresponding attack on business malpractices and Grunwick-type employers.

The commitments to social change turned into the belief that consensus and a cessation of political conflict would somehow bind up the wounds of a class-divided unjust society. Now that a nice class of person was taking charge, the wolf would lie down with the lamb and the child play on the hole of the asp.

One did not need David Owen to bring out a new cheap edition of his *Face the Future*, removing all the references to socialism found in the original, to know that betrayal was at hand. Soon at Crosby Green, Shirley Williams was campaigning without a trace of her former egalitarianism. For them all, "I am the spurt".

The SPD now stands clearly revealed as a middle-class, right-of-centre party. It most emphatically is not a social democratic

party in the historical usage of the term or by comparison with the social democratic parties of Sweden, Germany or Austria. No democratic socialist can support it without denying or repudiating the heritage they bring from the past. Neither of us will be renewing our membership.

How tragically sad that while the Labour Party is still infected by the intolerant extremism of a hard left wholly alien to its traditions, the SDP should turn out to be a fraud and a delusion.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN CAMROUX,  
ROBERT LACEY,  
18 Wilton Court,  
Shirley,  
Southampton.

From Mr Martin Stevens, MP for Fulham (Conservative)  
Sir, Mr Tony Benn claims that the Social Democrats are a party of the far right.

He need have no fears. In 120 important parliamentary divisions between April, 1981 and January, 1982, the SDP supported the Government only once (last July, over the European Community Budget). They abstained in nine votes, and were split in five.

They joined Mr Benn and the Labour Opposition in the lobby 105 times.

Yours truly,  
MARTIN STEVENS,  
House of Commons,  
January 30.

From Lady Jeger  
Sir, I see from your columns of January 26 that the Social Democratic Party has launched a "think tank" to be called The Tawney Society.

I suppose, this means that members of the SDP think well of R. H. Tawney. But what, I wonder, would Tawney think of them?

Yours truly,  
LENA M. JEGER,  
House of Lords,  
January 28.

### Mixed fortunes

From Professor S. Rees Jones  
Sir, The continuing controversy (Letters, January 20, 23) over the authenticity of the "Fortune Teller" attributed to Georges de la Tour, which the BBC intend to include in their 100 Great Paintings series, clearly indicates that stylistic and art historical criteria alone fail to provide a conclusion acceptable to all. It might be thought (and this seems to be in the minds of the supporters of the attribution) that the scientific examination of the materials and the painting technique would resolve the problem, but a critical reading of the technical communication from the Metropolitan Museum yields little reassurance.

We read for example that two tests based on the isotopes of lead were applied to the white lead paint; the one is admitted to be inconclusive, while the other "authenticity of the painting, but does not provide definite proof". In fact, the value of the isotope ratio found is on the borderline of acceptance for a pre-1800 date but well within the statistics for "modern" paint. The sample was submitted to a test (Differential Thermal Analysis) which gives

data on age over the first 100 years or so of the life of a layer of linseed oil paint. The answer was: "more than 100 years". But when the possibility of out and out forgery is under consideration, the first to establish that nothing has been introduced into the paint to stimulate hardening due to age. There is no mention of such an analysis.

The report includes a reproduction of the X-ray photograph of the painting and an interpretation which, curiously, does not refer to what seems to be a fragment of another composition beneath the Fortune Teller thus suggesting that it was painted over a fragment of an old canvas, a not uncommon feature of forgeries.

The above comments are directed at the report's selective use of scientific evidence, only one of which is relevant to the painting (the presence of yellow pigment thought to have become obsolete during the eighteenth century) and not in any way at the painting which I have never seen.

Yours faithfully,  
S. REES JONES,  
The Ashmolean Museum,  
Pall Mall, SW1,  
January 27.

### Lessons from Lutyns

From Mrs Margaret Richardson  
Sir, The Lutyns "debate" is not quite as straightforward as Charles Mc... describes ("Lutyns: a chequered career", January 13). Both Mr McKean and the "motley gang of revisionists" he refers to are equally misguided.

The principal organizers of the Lutyns exhibition certainly did not intend to use the opportunity to point a way forward for architecture or to designate the "heroic period" of the Modern Movement. But it does seem that it is only architectural journalists and some architects over 45 who continue to have any consistent interest in the theories of that movement.

Younger architects turned to other ideas some years ago, and it was because architectural students were taking such an interest in Lutyns and the period around 1930, as well as in a mixed bag of historical styles, that it was felt appropriate to hold a major exhibition of his work. If anything it was too late.

The Architectural Association, for example, has been holding weekly lectures on Lutyns for the past two years: well attended by both students and the profession.

But this is not to imply that younger architects are rushing to build in revivalist styles with methods taken from the Arts and Crafts movement. What they crib from the past are random ideas and details absorbed into a mish-mash of what they already know, and when executed, their buildings are utterly "modern" in technique and conception.

Lutyns's work, particularly, is stimulating as his early vernacular houses are freely composed and very inventive. His Georgian houses are not popular at present, but the oddity of the chequer-board housing in Westminster is rather admired. What is happening in architecture is a complex and subtle development that builds upon the achievements of the Modern Movement.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET RICHARDSON,  
64 Albert Street, NW1,  
January 14.

### Prospects for an Ulster Assembly

From Professor Cornelius O'Leary  
Sir, David Watt (feature, January 29) is the latest in a long line of commentators to pontificate about the Northern Ireland situation. It would be well if his knowledge of the subject matched his self-confidence.

In estimating the likely results of an election to an Assembly in the province, if such a device (as is generally believed) were to form part of the Peace Initiative, Mr Watt produces the following "illustrative guesses": DUP (Unionist) 26, SDLP (Catholic) 26, Alliance (Nonconfessional) 11, Sinn Féin 6.

By contrast with those figures, out of the top of Mr Watt's head, your readers might be interested to peruse the following percentages of votes cast in the previous elections held in the province: local elections of May, 1981: DUP 26.6, OUP 26.5, SDLP 17.5, Alliance 8.9, Workers' Party 1.8, other republican groups 5.3, other loyalist groups 5.2, Independents and others 8.2. (Source: *Irish Times*, 1.1.82, p. 1. *Northern Ireland: The District Council Elections of 1981*, Queen's University, Belfast, 1982).

In these results the DUP/OUP together got 53 per cent, not the 57 per cent that Mr Watt would give them. This comparison is sufficiently below the proposed executive "trigger" of 60 per cent to produce a manageable result.

Mr Watt also derides those "wishful thinkers" who believe that "the Protestants in an independent Northern Ireland could be restrained from abuse of their position by remote control of a financial kind from London". Those Protestants in the Northern Ireland Assembly who collaborated with the Catholic members in the Executive from January to May, 1974, far from attempting to abuse their position, worked loyally and honourably together.

The downfall of the Executive was largely due to external factors, Mr Watt's springing a general election in February, 1974, and the failure of the then Government of the Republic to make any move to satisfy Unionist opinion — a failure for which Dr Garret Fitzgerald later publicly expressed regret.

Yours etc.,  
CORNELIUS O'LEARY,  
Department of Political Science,  
The Queen's University of Belfast,  
January 29.

### Housing policy

From the Director of Shelter  
Sir, Mr M. Weale's attack on council housing (January 28) and his assertion that we should give it away to convert the nation into owner occupiers entirely misses the point of the present debate.

Firstly, Mr Weale wants to make available the financial benefits of ownership to all. But those benefits accrue because of the absurdly privileged tax position of home ownership, not just in relation to other housing tenures, but in relation to other forms of productive investment. These privileges encourage some people to consume more housing than they need and ensure that ever larger sums are taken up on behalf of an exchange process not a productive one. Because of the need for more investment those privileges must be reduced and with them the attractions, to some extent, of home ownership.

Secondly, Mr Weale's comparison is between home ownership and public renting. The real dilemma is that the tax exemptions provided for home ownership undermine any sort of renting, public or private. The reasons why that is undesirable is

that renting provides an entirely sensible and worthwhile option for many people at different stages of their lives: young, mobile people, elderly people who do not wish to have to maintain their own homes, people on low or variable incomes. A proper system of renting, which cannot exist until the financial benefits of owning and renting are evened out, would allow such a sensible system to develop different but equally worthwhile characteristics.

Finally, the significance of Mr Weale's letter is entirely undermined by his dubious use of figures. He quotes the rise in council subsidies between 1970 and 1979 yet, on the one hand, subsidies have fallen rapidly in the past three years and, on the other, the 1970s subsidy burden was a temporary one caused by the heavy concentration of costs at the beginning of repayment periods which was the result of rapidly rising interest rates.

Yours faithfully,  
NEIL MCINTOSH,  
National Campaign for the Homeless,  
157 Waterloo Road, SE1,  
January 29.

existing main hall, leading to new galleries set at an angle to Waterhouse's plan, seems unnecessary as it is inappropriate.

Let us hope that the trustees and the Government, who are planning to spend £18m on this unsympathetic scheme, will have second thoughts about Waterhouse's masterpiece before it is too late.

Yours faithfully,  
NORMAN HOWARD,  
Chairman of the Historic Buildings Panel,  
WILLIAM BELL,  
Secretary of the Historic Buildings Panel,  
Greater London Council,  
County Hall, SE1,  
January 27.

### Natural anxiety

From Councillor Norman Howard and Councillor William Bell  
Sir, It is no secret that representatives of the present Labour, GLC administration and the previous Conservative administration at County Hall sometimes hold different opinions. However, regarding the future of the Natural History Museum we are as one.

We consider that the destruction of nearly a third of this grade I listed building, with a floor area greater than that of Westminster Abbey, including seven exhibition galleries, would be a gross act of vandalism. The latest proposal to place a triangular foyer next to the splendid

profit on their total disbursement and not merely on the bid price. A further irony arises from the statement in your leading article of January 16 that the auctioneers have assured you "that they are not acting for buyers, merely charging them a premium". The fact remains, however, that VAT is payable on the premium on the assumption that it represents payment for a service rendered by the auctioneer to the buyer!

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP BROADBRIDGE,  
London and Provincial Antique Dealers' Association Ltd,  
112 Brompton Road, SW3,  
January 22.

### The buyer's premium

From the Secretary of the London and Provincial Antique Dealers' Association  
Sir, The irony of Lord Westmorland's contention (January 19) that retention of the buyer's premium is essential to the maintenance of London's position as the centre of the art market is that only two years previous to Sotheby's and Christie's introducing the premium these same firms had been active in persuading the Treasury that the imposition of VAT on (trade) auction sales would so discourage buyers that that position would be undermined.

Why 10 per cent payable to the auctioneers should be beneficial to the maintenance of that position but 10 per cent (as the VAT rate originally was) payable to the Revenue disastrous remains something of a mystery. It cannot be anything to do with the consequential smaller commission charged to vendors for Lord Westmorland accepts that buyers can discount the premium.

Contrary to Lord Westmorland's view that they rarely do so, it is our belief that, at any rate as far as dealers are concerned, they almost invariably have to do so: after all they have to make a

profit on their total disbursement and not merely on the bid price. A further irony arises from the statement in your leading article of January 16 that the auctioneers have assured you "that they are not acting for buyers, merely charging them a premium". The fact remains, however, that VAT is payable on the premium on the assumption that it represents payment for a service rendered by the auctioneer to the buyer!

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Chairman of the Historic Buildings Panel,  
WILLIAM BELL,  
Secretary of the Historic Buildings Panel,  
Greater London Council,  
County Hall, SE1,  
January 27.

### Proper names

From Mr Edmund Esdaile  
Sir, One of the more eccentric postbags is, or at least used to be, that received at the British Museum, of which my father was secretary. He periodically enveloped us at home with examples and after some 50 years I recall that of an inattentive Canadian typist who, having obviously misheard the word Curator, produced, both on the letter and on its enclosing envelope, this address: The Creator, The British Museum, London. The Post Office duly delivered it, forgoing any comment or emendation.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
EDMUND ESDAILE,  
53 Surrenden Road, Brighton.

From Sir John Ackroyd  
Sir, Before Christmas I received a prospectus inviting me to subscribe to a course in "The Use of Modern English". Study paper 9 in the prospectus covered "Letter writing" and correct forms of address.

The envelope was addressed to Mr J. A. Bart.  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ACKROYD,  
43, Lansdowne Crescent, W11.

### Mapping the future

From Mr John Wright  
Sir, The fundamental weakness of the argument put forward in

your leading article (January 20) and by General Edge (January 27), that the Ordnance Survey could never pay for itself, is the failure to distinguish between the quite different functions, users, and distribution of the medium scale contour maps (at 1:10,000 scale and smaller) and the 200,000 or so very large scale uncoloured plans. The maps very nearly pay for themselves; the plans "lose" £20m a year. Similar maps are found in most developed countries; but the large-scale plans and their dense supporting framework are almost unique, being replaced elsewhere by individual title surveys and plans made by private licensed surveyors.

Nearly everybody uses the maps in one way or another, for walking, motorcycling, science teaching, police work and general administration; but to a very large extent the plans are only used by specialist professionals. Who, for example ever saw in real life or on television a policeman using a basic large-scale plan? The maps can be bought in any stationers; the plans can only be obtained from Ordnance Survey agents; and most of the specialist users make their own copies under licence. The main users are engineers, lawyers, architects, planners, and estate agents, and of course HM Land Registry, and the planning, management, and transfer of landed property. The copyright fees form a negligible part of their budgets.

As Sir Dennis Pilcher said in his letter to you of September 9, 1981, which has not been contradicted, these professionals are quite prepared to pay more; and I understand that this view is supported by the Standing Committee of Professional Map Users, who are more worried about a possible lowering of standards. Revenue would of course then depend on the amount of use; but the Land Registry seems to manage quite well on income from the varying flow of property transactions — and because it does not pay the full cost of the basic plans it uses every day.

We are all agreed that now we have this system it would be madness not to keep it in good order, even though other countries manage without it. But it need not be subsidised by the taxpayer, because the cost could be met out of increased copyright fees from its users, in the same way that the other national maps are paid for by those who use them. Whether we should do this is of course a political question; but it is misleading to say that it could not be done.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WRIGHT,  
Webbs Farmhouse,  
Lakeside Road,  
West Wittering,  
Chichester,  
West Sussex,  
January 28.

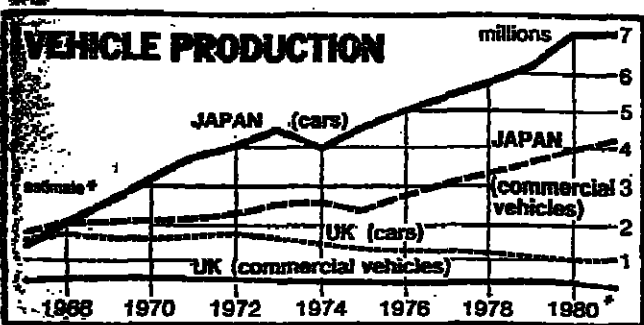






## BUSINESS NEWS

### More Japanese cars



Japan's 11 car makers say production targets for 1982 will boost output by 4.6 per cent to 11.69 million cars and commercial vehicles, more than half of them for export. Due to voluntary export restraint to the United States and European Community countries, exports are expected to be 6.11 million vehicles, only a 1.3 per cent increase on 1981's total.

### Talbot call for subsidy

Talbot Cars in Coventry has asked the Government for a subsidy to save the jobs of the 1,900 workers at its engine-building plant. The workers have been laid off for the last six weeks because of troubles in Iran which hit Talbot's work on a valuable contract. They have now been given nominal 90-day redundancy notices which will be withdrawn if Government funds are made available.

Meanwhile another 1,500 workers at the company's Ryton assembly plant returned today after being laid off for a fortnight.

### Timex ticks for \$125m

Timex Corporation, which manufactures the Nimslo 3-D camera at its plant in Dundee, has agreed to buy 800,000 of the cameras worth \$125m in return for distribution rights in the United States over the next two years. Timex will also take over all warranty obligations for the cameras in the United States, marketing, advertising and promotion of the camera will remain in the hands of Mr Corvin Cianci, Nimslo's executive vice president in charge of worldwide marketing, who was formerly responsible for Polaroid's marketing programme. Shares of Nimslo International on the Unlisted Securities Market rose 7p to 150p on news of the deal. The Nimslo camera has been the subject of concern following the disclosure last November the Dr Jerry Nims, one of the company's joint founders, had disposed of his personal shareholding in the company.

### Marry for money

Young married couples are being offered a year's free banking, personal loans at reduced rates, free mortgage valuations, commission-free foreign currency and travellers cheques for the honeymoon, a discount on the purchase of a new car, and a discount on the purchase of a new house. The United Provident Association and advice on insurance and making a will in the latest drive by Barclay's Bank to attract new business.

### More spent

Food advertisers increased their spending on television and in the consumer press by almost a third in 1981 to \$509.9m according to figures compiled by Media Expenditure and Analysis, the research company. Financial advertising increased by 44 per cent to \$132.3m. The MEAL list of top advertising agencies was headed by J. Walter Thompson, followed by Saatchi & Saatchi, Garland-Compton,

## Unions sound warning on gas prices

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Gas prices to industry could rise by 60 per cent as a result of the Government's plans to end the British Gas Corporation's monopoly power over North Sea gas, leading trade unionists claimed yesterday.

The warning was given after a 90-minute meeting at the Energy Department at which members of the TUC's fuel and power industries committee told Mr Nigel Lawson, Energy Secretary, of their "root and branch" opposition to the Government's North Sea gas privatisation Bill, being considered by Parliament.

The Bill is designed to pave the way for the sale of shares in the British National Oil Corporation later this year, as well as the ending of British Gas' monopoly purchase powers and the sale of its interests in several North Sea oil fields.

Mr John Edmonds, national officer for the General and Municipal Workers Union, said allowing oil companies to sell North Sea gas direct to industrial customers was likely to lead to "a massive increase" in industry's fuel bills.

Prices could rise from their present levels of between 25p and 30p a therm to between 40p and 50p a therm over the next few years. There would probably be a knock-on effect on domestic gas prices too, it was claimed.

Mr John Lyons, national officer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said it was inconceivable that companies such as Shell, Esso and

British Petroleum would have been pressed for the ending of the monopoly simply in order to achieve lower gas prices.

Mr Lawson, however, told the union delegation that he expected gas prices to fall rather than rise, as a result of introducing competition into the North Sea gas market. He said that there was no intention of allowing North Sea gas to be exported, and the Government had powers to prevent this happening.

The TUC leaders denounced all the main features of the North Sea Bill which is now in committee stage in the House of Commons. They said it had no "logic on energy grounds".

They also attacked the privatisation of BNOC, which said they could lessen the public's control of North Sea oil. Ending the gas monopoly could also hit sales of electricity and coal.

The Chemical Industries Association, one of the leading campaigners for the ending of the British Gas' monopoly purchase powers, last night also criticized the union leaders' claim that industrial gas would rise.

The unions based their argument on claims by leading oil companies that they would need between 25p and 30p a therm for North Sea gas to justify exploiting new and so far undeveloped gas fields in the northern part of the North Sea. The highest price British Gas has so far offered any United Kingdom North Sea producer is around 17p a therm.

### Support costs oil companies £500m

## Petrol prices tumble

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Although the petrol price war is now costing the petrol makers almost £10m a week in various financial support measures to petrol retailers, forecourt prices in some parts of the country are expected to slide further.

Few petrol stations outside rural areas are now charging more than £1.60 a gallon for four-star and prices in many areas are drifting nearer to £1.50.

The number of towns and cities with prices below £1.50 is growing, led by traditionally competitive locations such as Manchester, the Leeds-Bradford-Sheffield area, Walsall and various parts of Kent including Canterbury.

There are signs that prices in Bristol will drop below £1.50 a gallon soon. London prices vary between £1.50 and £1.60 a gallon.

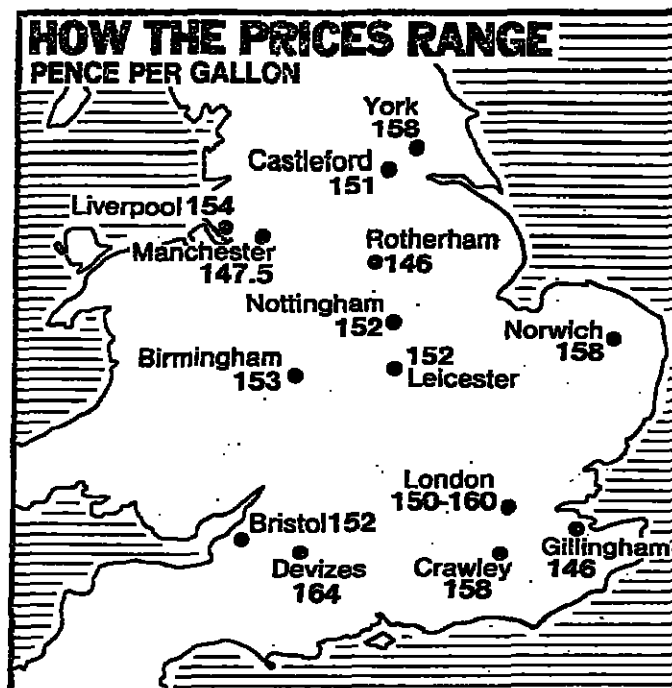
At Norwich-based Mann Egerton, which has a chain of outlets mainly in the Norfolk area, Mr Jamie Campbell, forecourts general manager, said prices seemed to drop virtually every other day in the latter half of January.

Prices vary widely in various parts of the country mainly because of the tempo of local competition. A big influence in Bristol, for example, is the low-pricing policy of the Carrefour hypermarket on the motorway network just outside the city.

A potent factor in Manchester area and on Merseyside is the price-cutting of Telegraph Service Stations, the second biggest national chain of independent petrol retail outlets.

But at present any price below £1.70 a gallon represents mostly support from the big oil companies.

Some companies offer temporary wholesale price



reductions while others guarantee a minimum margin to retailers. The various forms of support are now costing the companies the equivalent of £500m a year, according to the Motor Agents Association, the trade body for petrol retailers.

Nobody in the industry seriously quarrels with this estimate which means that Esso, Shell and BP (including National), each with about 20 per cent market share, could be facing support bills of up to £2m a week.

Petrol prices, which had then been rising to £1.70 and above, started to ease as long ago as last September. Support from the first of the MAA's smaller independent retailers are expected by the MAA to be driven out of business.

The big oil companies see the role of the spot market in Rotterdam, source of supply for the smaller independent retailers via some 25 wholesalers, as a key factor in fuelling the price war. But this sector accounts for barely 3 per cent of the petrol market, according to the MAA.

Behind the price war are several factors. There is an excess of refinery capacity in Britain. Petrol sales are down, with the hard winter intensifying the slide, forcing the companies to compete hard even to hold their share of the shrinking market.

The oil companies also have a buying advantage with sterling stronger against the United States dollar in which both oil and refined products are denominated.

The big oil companies see the role of the spot market in Rotterdam, source of supply for the smaller independent retailers via some 25 wholesalers, as a key factor in fuelling the price war. But this sector accounts for barely 3 per cent of the petrol market, according to the MAA.

More smaller independent retailers are expected by the MAA to be driven out of business.

## Fisons sells off fertilizer division

By Rupert Morris

Fisons is selling its agricultural fertilizer business to Norsk-Hydro of Norway, for £50m, subject to the approval of both boards and shareholders, the company announced yesterday.

Its fertilizer business may have made Fisons an international name, but for the past two years it has also been losing the company money. The division lost £1.1m before tax on a turnover of £1.4m in 1980.

News of the sale sent Fisons' shares up 30p to 210p, and company sources were confident that the proceeds would enable Fisons to wipe out many of its financial commitments, and concentrate on the main growth sectors of its business, headed by drugs.

Fisons' fertilizer division, based in Felixstowe, Suffolk, with plants at Lunningham and Aploymouth, has about 25 per cent of the United Kingdom compound fertilizer market, and 15 per cent of nitrogen fertilizers.

ICI, which claims about 50 per cent of the United Kingdom fertilizer market, which is worth in total between £700m and £800m made public comment but was understood not to expect any big change in the industry.

Norsk-Hydro has promised to retain all 2,800 fertilizer division employees, and to honour all contracts.

Mr John Kerridge, of Fisons, chief executive said: "The fertilizer business will be in good hands as Norsk-Hydro has a strong commitment to agricultural fertilizers."

"Norsk-Hydro will also be an effective competitor alongside ICI, and that is good news from the consumer's point of view."

The rest of Fisons' 7,500 employees work in pharmaceuticals, horticulture and scientific equipment, with a further 2,000 employed in a joint agrochemicals venture with Boots. Fisons says the £50m from the sale should secure the future of these other sectors.

The deal is expected to be completed in the spring.

## French prices warning

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said in Paris yesterday that the effect of France's new economic policies was uncertain and higher wages could push up prices.

Despite recruitment incentives and government moves to increase production, unemployment in 1982 and inflation stabilize until the second half of this year, when it would affect about 8.5 per cent of the workforce, it said.

The comments were made in the OECD's first full assessment of the French economy since the Socialist government of President Francois Mitterrand came to power last June.

Mr Mitterrand pledged to reduce unemployment, which topped two million last October, by creating new jobs, and to revive growth by loan injections.

OECD experts, reviewing the short-term prospects, said unemployment may steady during 1982 and inflation may slow slightly compared with the second half of last year. France's external deficits will probably remain substantial.

"This type of performance is admirable, but not entirely satisfactory," they said.

However, the OECD said this outlook should be compared with the trend in the 12 months up to mid-1981.

## US rules out drop in interest rates

The United States will not act to lower its interest rates to alleviate world unemployment, Mr William Brock, the United States trade representative, said in Davos, Switzerland, yesterday.

The United States interest rates and their effect on other nations' economies were discussed during the weekend at an informal European management symposium of industry and economy ministers from 20 countries.

"We cannot and shall not reflate," Mr Brock told newsmen, adding that to do so would lead to a resurgence of the United States inflation.

Last Friday, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Mr Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, appealed to the United States to lower interest rates, indicating there was a link between them and unemployment in the West.

Mr Brock urged the West to restrain the transfer of technology to the Soviet Union and reconsider whether large credits should be granted to Eastern Europe. He said that West European countries should have looked at alternatives such as coal imports from the United States before going ahead with contracts for the supply of gas from the Soviet Union.

Sales of high technology to the Soviet Union had served to increase its military capability, nullifying increased Western spending on defence, he said.

Restraint in this area would be more effective as a means of pressure in response to martial law in Poland than a ban on the United States exports of grain to the Soviet Union, he added.

The Reagan Administration has been criticised in



Brock: America cannot and will not reflate

Europe for failing to halt grain shipments while pressing Europeans to refrain from agreements which would make them dependent on Soviet gas for their energy needs.

Mr Brock's comments, indicating that America will continue to give priority to its domestic goals, gave further support to foreign exchange markets yesterday.

The dollar raced ahead on speculation that the Federal Reserve may allow United States interest rates to rise in response to the recent high level of monetary growth, John Whitmore writes.

The United States currency moved above DM2.35 briefly before closing 4.45 pence higher in London at DM2.3448. Sterling held up rather better than most currencies, finishing 1.95 cents lower at £1.8615. Its trade weighted index against a basket of currencies closed 0.2 higher at 91.8.

Eurodollar interest rates were generally at least half a per cent higher in European trading.

## Moran man presses Lloyd's case

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Mr Reid Wilson, the Lloyd's underwriter whom the ruling committee is trying to expel from membership of the insurance market, is now trying to force Lloyd's to put his case to a vote of members as soon as possible.

Mr Wilson formerly connected with the Christopher Moran Group, was found guilty of "acts and defaults discreditable to him as an underwriter" by arbitrators under the insurance market's disciplinary procedures. To expel him Lloyd's needs a four-fifths vote in favour of the expulsion at a special meeting called under Section 20 of the 1871 Lloyd's Act, but the ruling committee has said it wants to delay this meeting until after the outcome of Mr Christopher Moran's arbitration case, due to start on July 12, is known.

Mr Wilson, who says he has not worked since last June, has sent Lloyd's a letter requesting an extraordinary meeting with 27 signatories including 17 internal and 10 external Lloyd's names. Under the by-laws any member can requisition an extraordinary meeting with 16 signatories.

Mr Wilson said that if his case was not put to members until after the Moran hearing, it would be the end of October at the earliest.



Development cash call

The Asian Development Bank hopes to raise at least \$700m (£375m) this year, mainly on the bond market. Mr Masae Fujioka, its president (above), said yesterday. The bank is owned by 44 members and outstanding loans total \$10,000m.

1983. Mr Fujioka said he would like to mobilize more private funds in cooperative ventures. But he admitted: "To be frank we are not keeping up with the expectations of the Asian people. The bank is owned by 44 members and outstanding loans total \$10,000m."

### Ronson appeal in ACC takeover battle

## Holmes à Court losing initiative

By Our Financial Staff

There is a growing feeling in the City that Mr Robert Holmes à Court may have lost the initiative in his bid to take over Associated Communications Corporation.

After setting-up a considered and seemingly bullet-proof offer he may be prepared to listen to an arrangement on the sale of his 2.2 per cent of the votes and the 51 per cent of the ACC non-voters. He had already said the shares were not for sale, but added that it would be silly to add: "not at any price".

His arch-rival, Mr Gerald Ronson, of Heron, had once again blocked a quick victory for The Australian financier's £36m takeover bid for ACC by lodging an appeal in the High Court yesterday.

His Heron Corporation is attempting to overturn a decision last week by Mr Justice Vinelott which said the ACC directors did not breach the company's Articles of Association or their fiduciary duty by effectively agreeing a shut out offer from the Australian financier.

It is believed that Heron has lodged the appeal, likely to take two or three days, and could start this week, with reluctance.

Mr Justice Vinelott's ruling produced a chink in the apparently solid Holmes à Court armour by saying the deal under a £500m takeover by Associated Broadcasting Authority (ABA) conditional approval would have been given, was invalid.



Holmes à Court: Ready for offer?

cannot register them without IBA approval. The remainder have been promised to the Holmes à Court bid, and are his once the offer becomes unconditional.

In the High Court last week he hinted that he would release the ACC directors from their irrevocable undertakings under certain circumstances. It was a carefully worded statement but left most in doubt as to what the circumstances might be.

Mr Holmes à Court has now left ACC's Marble Arch head office. In charge is one of his close aides, Mr Bert Reuter. Mr Holmes à Court, the new chairman and chief executive of ACC who is also fighting a takeover battle in Australia, departed suddenly on Friday. His office said he is due to return a week on Monday.

That is the day the Post Office pension fund are due to return to court for the full hearing of its opposition to the £750,000 golden handshake package proposed to Lord Grade's former right hand man, Mr Jack Gill.

His return date is also on the eve of a special shareholders meeting, already adjourned twice, to vote on Mr Gill's payoff.

That is also the time around which, under the takeover rules, the deadline by which Mr Holmes à Court's formal offer document should have been sent to shareholders.

## Daily Mail and General Trust PLC

### Statement by Viscount Rothermere, Chairman

This last year has seen the full effect of recession on industry both in this country and abroad. Inflation here has moderated but real interest rates, particularly in North America, have achieved an historic high level. Against this background it is pleasing to be able to report that, disregarding the special dividend from Shell received at the very beginning of our previous financial year, our gross Revenue this year from our general portfolio has been more than maintained and net Revenue after expenses and taxation at £2,058,000 shows only a small decrease.

You will notice in the Directors' Report that the Company is now considered to be a close Company for the purposes of taxation. In consequence, the Board intend to distribute materially all of the Company's Revenue after taxation.

After provision for the Preference Dividend, earnings for the year were 30.2p per share (against 31.5p per share last year, of which 1.5p per share was special) and the Board is, therefore, recommending a total distribution on the Ordinary and 7K Ordinary Shares of 30.0p per share, against 27.5p per share last year.

In the last twelve months we have seen the rate of inflation decrease, but now tend to increase again; nevertheless, the world wide recession and high interest rates have allowed no easing of the pressures on profits; happily, exports from the United Kingdom

have continued at a high level.

It is the North American economy, now itself in recession, which has most effect world wide, and the high interest rates there have strengthened the dollar by some 20%, which has helped industry here in its drive for exports, conversely the stronger dollar has meant greatly increased costs to our Associated Company as an importer of newsprint. It has meant also that there has been no relief on the cost of borrowing money, even though industrial stocks are now at much lower levels, and no help to the Gilt Edged market.

During this last year we have realised the Government Stocks held, and we have taken out of the portfolio companies which it seemed likely the recession would affect the most. We have continued to invest more abroad and, from the Balance Sheet, you will see that at the year end we had considerable funds, both in Sterling and Dollars, awaiting the opportune time for investment.

The coming year must inevitably be one where income growth is likely to mark time, but I am hopeful that industry is now in a much better shape to take advantage of the upturn, of which there are just the first signs. We believe the shape of our portfolio will allow us to reap full advantage of the recovery when it happens.

### Profit takers move in

#### LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 572.0, down 7.8  
FT 100 54.65, down 0.55  
FT All Share 327.83, down 3.10  
Bargains 20,899

All eyes remained fixed on Wall Street yesterday with the London market dismayed at the latest set of United States money supply figures.

This appears to have ended, for the time being, last week's optimism about a Wall Street revival and has left economists undecided about which way United States interest rates will move next.

So equities decided to play it safe, and with two weeks of the account left to run, profit takers were abundant. The FT Index, which last week appeared set to break its all-time high, closed 7.8 down at 572.0.

Gilt also had their fair share of sellers with prices losing as much as 21 in longs and 2 1/2 in shorts as the pound came under renewed selling pressure.

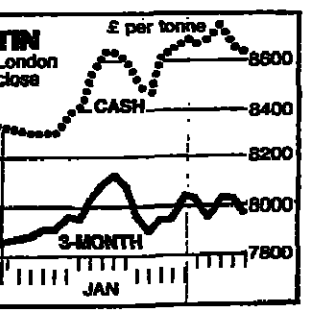
An early feature was Fisons, a speculative stock which announced the sale of its fosamit fertilizer subsidiary for £500m. This produced an immediate flurry of takeover gossip, which lifted the price 30p to 218p. The German chemical group Bayer has long been tipped as a likely candidate.

Elsewhere, ICI, down 12p at 330p, was paying £13m for Arthur Holden, the laquer and paint group. Holden, the subject of a takeover bid earlier this month by International Paint, which netted 12 per cent of the shares, rose 24p to 168p.

Michael Clark

#### COMMODITIES

● The Tokyo Gold Exchange, scheduled to open on March 23, is expected to trade 240 tonnes of gold annually in futures transactions, its preparatory committee said.



● Dealing in tin yesterday was dominated by cash selling, which stabilized the price at around £8,600 a tonne. The forward closed at £8,597. The forward contract, by contrast, was slow, the market influenced by the continued presence of heavy cash buyers and the availability of physical tin. The three months standard price ended the day at £7,965 a tonne, slightly reducing the backwardation. Traders were willing to "lend" metal, so carries were an important part of turnover.

### TODAY

UK official reserves. CBI monthly trends. Capital issues and redemptions.

#### OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1,418.02, down 1.40  
Singapore: 661.47, up 4.10

#### CURRENCIES

● The dollar was strong on the back of higher US interest rates and Polish uncertainties.

LONDON CLOSE  
STERLING \$1.8615 down 1.95 cents  
DM 4.3775  
Fr.F 11.12

Yen 433  
DOLLAR Index 110.9 up 0.7pts  
DM 2.3448 up 443 pts  
GMD \$379 up \$4.75

#### MONEY MARKETS

● The Bank bought £535m of bills in response to a £500m shortage, lowering its dealing rate to 13 1/2 per cent in Bands 3 and 4.

Domestic Rates:  
Base rates 14%  
3-month interbank 14%-14 1/2%  
Euro-Currency Rates:  
3 month DM 15%-15 1/2%  
3 month Fr.F. 10%-10 1/2%.







BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

A peer's feat of Clay

Like Lord Emsworth, of Blandings Castle, Lord Aberconway, 69, (below) is fond of gardening but not of public speaking. Emsworth shunned the House of Lords and it took Aberconway 27 years to break his silence and speak to his assembled peers. But yesterday Aberconway showed aside the shyness of decades and warned off would-be bidders (RTZ Consolidated Gold? Barlow Rand?) impudent enough to make a takeover offer. As chairman of British China Clays whose shares were up 10p, yesterday put up a notice to trespassers. Sniffily, he said: "We think it most unlikely that we would judge any such (takeover) proposition to be of benefit to the business as a whole." Haughtily he added: "We cannot conceive that any other organization could materially improve on our technology in the fields of research into clay minerals, not to our expertise in mining and processing those minerals, nor our commercial experience in marketing them."



Eng. Clays' Lord Aberconway

What's inn a name

Restaurateurs Thérèse and René Rochon have a problem with their London restaurant Chez Solange. From February 11, they want to designate part of it Cinq à Sept, for Paris-style romantic after-work and pre-dinner drinks. The problem is that London licensing laws dictate that the drinkery can't open until 5.30. Les Rochons have decided to stretch the drinking time until 7.30 and to keep the name. After all, Cinq Heures et Demi à Sept Heures et Demi just doesn't have the right ring, does it?

Frown at heel

A call for used footwear to be collected and sent to needy Poles is stinging Nicholas Calvert to put in the boot. Calvert, who is secretary of the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation, is hopping mad because millions of pairs of Polish shoes are exported to this country each year. Some, he says, are sold at prices which are below the value of the components alone on the British market. The appeal for the used shoes comes from Charles Wheeler, the BBC's chief European correspondent, and was published in Calvert's local paper, the *Surrey Advertiser*. Of the Poles, Wheeler says: "They need shoes, they need them badly. In sub-zero temperatures their feet are exposed through holes in their shoes."

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr A. S. Nunn has been elected chairman of the Institute of London Underwriters. Mr D. Town has been elected deputy chairman. Mr S. L. Finch, who retired last year as deputy chairman of the Weir Group, has accepted an appointment to the board of P. I. Cassing Group as chairman-elect to succeed Mr J. F. B. Jackson, who Mr Jackson retires as chairman in May next. Mr C. M. Keville has been appointed a director of C. T. Boring & Co (Insurance). Sir Campbell Fraser, executive chairman of Dunlop Holdings, has been appointed a non-executive director of The Charterhouse Group.

Rupert Morris

Why Fisons and fertilizers parted company

Fisons and fertilizers have been synonymous in many people's minds for so long that yesterday's announcement of the £50m sale of the company's agricultural fertilizer division to the Norwegian firm Norsk-Hydro will come as a shock.

But in spite of Fisons' public denials that such a sale was imminent, it was certainly far from unexpected. Nor is it necessarily a disaster for the British chemical industry or for Fisons itself.

As Mr John Kerridge, chief executive since mid-1980, explained, Fisons has been pursuing a policy of concentrating on the surer profit-making parts of its business, particularly drugs, more or less since he took office.

The fertilizer division, which has been the only consistent loss-maker in the group over the past two years, was drastically pruned a year ago when four works were closed with the loss of 1,100 jobs — more than a quarter of the workforce.

The division lost £1.1m in 1980, compared with a profit of £2.5m the year before. Half-year figures for the Fisons group in 1981 showed considerable overall improvement, with a pre-tax loss in the second half of 1980 being turned into a £1.1m million profit. But fertilizers were still showing a trading loss.

In retrospect, the severing of its one obviously unhealthy limb makes perfect sense. Fisons had been hard hit by recession, and its conditions were becoming more pressing. It also seems quite possible that the fertilizer division is now far more attractive than it was.

Said Mr Kerridge: "The significance of this sale as far as we're concerned is that it's a major relief on our balance sheet and enables us to concentrate all our resources on our growth businesses: horticulture, pharmaceuticals and scientific equipment."

"We have found the fertilizer business strategically difficult. It's investment intensive, and the size of the investment needed to develop it is better done by big companies."

A company like ICI, for instance, is already committed to fertilizers through its

chemical plants which produce ammonia. Almost all fertilizers are made from ammonia. ICI has also enjoyed a remarkably favourable arrangement with British Gas for purchase of the ammonia from which ammonia is made: rumours of the price ICI pays vary between 6.5p and 11p a therm — in either case well below the market rate of about 30p a therm around which a company like Fisons would expect to negotiate.

ICI has about 50 per cent of the British fertilizer market, compared with Fisons' 25 per cent. The Dutch company UKF, which enjoys a similar source of ammonia from its parent company Dutch State Mines, claims about 10 per cent, and

Norsk-Hydro, the buyer. In contrast with most other European fertilizer producers Norsk-Hydro has been pursuing an impressive expansion programme based on profits from its North Sea oil and gas operations.

It has bought the second largest Dutch nitrogen producer, NSM, and a majority holding in Sweden's only fertilizer manufacturer, Supra, so that it can claim a monopoly position in both Norwegian and Swedish markets, plus a large share of the Danish market and another significant interest in the Dutch nitrogen market.

Ironically it was only a few days ago that a company spokesman told *European Chemical News*: "We have now reached a level of activity in fertilizers which makes growth in volume no longer a major objective."

The company did, however, say that it anticipates more link-ups and closures in the industry.

Mr Martin Trowbridge, director-general of the Chemical Industries Association, said he saw the move as part of a trend in which manufacturers of fertilizers would find their once specialized products becoming increasingly "international commodities, which major international companies would find much easier to market on a grand scale."

He added: "This also emphasizes the role of the British government in ensuring that our energy related costs are competitive with the best of international competitors."

Fisons' Mr John Kerridge did not see any major threat to British industry as a result of the sale. But at the very least Norsk-Hydro is unlikely to renew the ammonia contract with ICI. Norsk-Hydro makes its own.

We shall know more about Fisons' precise financial position in a month when its preliminary results for last year are published. In the meantime, while no substantial contraction of business such as this can be good news, it will undoubtedly ease the company's immediate financial problems, and in due course it is entirely possible that the

rest is taken up by small, geographically concentrated firms.

But besides the strategic reasons for Fisons' getting out of fertilizers, the most immediately important reason was that it needed the money.

Trading profits from its various divisions in 1980 amounted to £16.3m. But finance charges of £12.5m reduced pre-tax profits to £3.8m.

Fisons' particular difficulties and reasons for sale do not, obviously apply to

What Fisons is selling

What it is keeping

What it is keeping

What it is keeping

What it is keeping

What it is keeping

What it is keeping



Fisons' chairman, Sir George Buxton, unloads a loss-maker

growth in its other divisions will outweigh the loss of one. As the figures show, Fisons' turnover in fertilizers at £193.6 million in 1980 was almost as much as the rest of the divisions put together. But growth is an entirely different matter.

While the fertilizer business was contracting, the drugs division, with new treatments being introduced for various allergies, has been showing growth of between 20 and 25 per cent, while other sectors have been growing by up to 10 per cent.

Last year's decision to abandon for safety reasons the drug Proxicromil was a serious setback. Fisons was understood to have spent about £12 million on its

development, and it was intended to be an important new asthma treatment similar to *Albuterol*.

Pharmaceuticals have, however, remained Fisons' main source of strength, providing £7.3 million out of the £8.3 trading profit made in the first half of 1981.

In spite of the harmful effects of recession and reduced domestic demand, Fisons' agrochemicals division looks reasonably safe thanks to the link with Boots. Its most vulnerable sector would appear to be scientific machinery, exports of which were severely hit in 1981 by the strong pound.

But there is some optimism that last year's redundancies will be the last for a while.

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Selling £100 million worth of air

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING CHANNEL FOUR

By Torin Douglas

Britain's marketing and advertising experts are about to get a taste of their own medicine. The firms who pour millions of pounds into launching new brands and sustaining existing ones will soon find themselves on the receiving end of the biggest new product launch of 1982 — that of the fourth television channel.

Channel Four goes on the air in exactly nine months' time and the battle to persuade advertisers to book commercials on it is just beginning. The first rate-cards have started to appear, the channel has appointed an advertising agency, and next week Channel Four's chief executive, Jeremy Isaacs, and managing director, Justin Dukes, begin a nationwide series of presentations to advertisers and agencies at which they will reveal many of the plans for the new channel, including the first outline programme schedule.

On the surface, Isaacs and Dukes' task should not be an unduly difficult one. For commercial television has been enjoying an unprecedented advertising boom in spite of the recession. Last year, ITV's net revenue leapt by 15 per cent to £611 million, thereby illustrating most advertisers' reluctance to take their business away from television despite its high cost.

Channel Four, which will increase the supply of airtime by some 50 per cent, seems certain to benefit, but it has other attractions for the advertiser as well. With its smaller, but more tightly defined audiences — Isaacs says he is aiming for 10 per cent of the total viewing hours — Channel Four should be able to attract advertisers who currently cannot afford the capital cost of a television campaign and are using the colour supplements or other media instead.

In addition, because its programming will be complementary to that on ITV — with news opposite comedy, films opposite sport and so on — it is likely to increase the total audience to commercial television. It is also expected to attract groups who do not generally watch ITV, such as businessmen and young people.

There are a number of



Justin Dukes, managing director and Jeremy Isaacs, chief executive of Channel Four: aiming for 10 per cent of viewing hours

drawbacks for Isaacs and Dukes, however, as they start their crusade next week, not least of which is the fact that they do not have anything to sell. All the airtime on the new channel will be sold by the existing independent television companies, region by region, and Channel Four's management does not even have a say in its pricing structure. This does not make the marketing of the channel particularly straightforward. In fact, by comparison with the launch of a new supermarket product, the selling of Channel Four will be a marketing man's nightmare.

If Channel Four were a new brand, it would be the biggest new product launch of this or almost any other year. Its sales target is in excess of £100 million a year, which would put it on a par with the most successful brands such as Mars, Persil and Whiskas. Its target audience is 87 per cent of the population.

Yet, unlike most conventional brands, Channel Four will require two totally different marketing campaigns if it is to achieve these aims — one to persuade advertisers to buy airtime and another to persuade the public to watch. It will also have the benefit of not one but over a dozen sales and marketing departments —

one for every ITV region — each with a different sales plan and pricing policy and each visiting the same advertisers and agencies. And that is not including Channel Four's own marketing department, which, though embryonic at present, is expected to grow rapidly when a head of marketing is appointed in a few months' time.

Justin Dukes, who as deputy chief executive and managing director of Channel Four is in charge of the business side of the operation, accepts that it is important that there should be "no disharmony in the way the channel is presented". He and Isaacs at one time hoped a central sales force could be set up, alongside those of the regional ITV contractors, to sell advertising on Channel Four on a national basis. Since the programmes would be the same all over the country, it seemed to make sense, but that battle had been fought and lost many months previously, in Parliament and outside, by the advertisers and agencies who wanted the existing ITV companies to have no part in the selling of the channel at all.

Dukes, who was joint managing director of the *Financial Times* until taking up his new post last May, has

not given up, however. "We continue to seek a situation," he says, "where it is possible for an advertiser to buy the country as a whole for his campaign without having to go to each of the ITV contractors in turn."

The contractors do not agree, though three of them have announced their intention of providing a halfway house for new advertisers by offering a joint rate covering the south east of England. The three companies, London Weekend Television, TVS and Anglia, intend to offer a package of 40 commercial spots on all three stations for £140,000, up to 30 per cent of which they will give back to the advertiser in order to make his commercial.

Ostensibly the idea behind the scheme is to attract new advertisers who might be worried that the cost of producing their television commercial would be excessive in view of the comparatively low cost of the airtime. "We realize that the cost of producing commercials will be a problem," says Ron Miller, sales director of London Weekend, "which is why we have got together to do something about it."

However, some observers, and not just rival ITV companies, see the move simply as a way of attracting business to the three contractors concerned, at the ex-

pense of contractors in other parts of the country. Significantly, the joint ratecard has yet to be lodged with the Office of Fair Trading, though the three companies say they believe there will be no difficulties on that score. Other contractors, one of which has suggested the proposal could lead to the "Balkanization" of Channel Four, are not so sure.

If the marketing of the channel to the advertising business seems unduly complicated, however, even to marketing men, at least its promotion to the public is relatively straightforward. Channel Four has appointed one of London's most highly regarded advertising agencies, Boase Massin Pollard, and has earmarked £2 million for the launch, the bulk of which will be spent in the immediate pre-launch period.

Unlike previous television channels and unlike new newspapers and magazines, Channel Four does not have to persuade people to buy a new set or a new aerial or the publication itself. All it has to do is to get people to press the spare button on their set. Ultimately, however, it will be the quality of the programming that will determine whether or not Channel Four meets its audience targets and, as a result, attracts sufficient advertising revenue to pay its way. By the beginning of November, there will be no one in the country left unaware of the launch of the new television channel, but if it does not screen programmes that sufficient people want to watch, it will go the same way as the vast majority of other new products launched each year: it will fail.

● Torin Douglas will write a marketing and advertising column every Tuesday

Base Lending Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds.	14%
C. Hoare & Co.	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

\* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and over 12% £50,000 and over 12.5%

Business Editor

What will Opec do now?

The downward pressure on oil prices shows no sign of abating. If anything, the chances that members of Opec will have to beat an undignified retreat from the price reunification they achieved so tenuously last autumn are increasing by the day. Both the "spot" market and the increasingly busy oil futures markets in London and the United States are indicating that the new Opec \$34-barrel benchmark is no longer tenable in the present conditions of world oil glut.

For the first time, cargoes of Saudi crude oil are now trading at a discount of at least 50 cents a barrel to the official \$34 a barrel price, while the disparity for North Sea oil — which had been trading at a discount for several weeks — has widened to more than \$20 a barrel. On the futures market, prices for gas oil are discounting the belief that there will be no recovery in price levels for the next six months.

It is hardly surprising therefore that pressure is mounting on Saudi Arabia, accounting for 40 per cent of Opec's total production, to cut back its output from its current official level of 3.5 million barrels a day. This was certainly one of the major topics at the meeting of the six leading oil producers in the Gulf over the weekend. Many oil industry observers believe that a cut in Saudi production of up to 2 million barrels a day is inevitable if the price slide is to be halted. It may have happened already, unannounced.

The alternative is for Opec to try and engineer an across-the-board price cut. But neither option is likely to make the heads off the oil producers for long. There are two main reasons. One is that the Saudi capacity for cutting its output will become extremely limited once it gets down to the 6.5 million barrel a day level. Any further reduction will have to be at the expense of its ambitious internal development plans. The other reason is that any shortfall in Saudi production is likely to be promptly taken up by the kingdom's fellow Opec members, who have seen their crude sales rapidly eroded by their attempts to charge an above-market price.

The bold souls in the oil industry who reckon that the oil price could fall as far as \$25 a barrel are still in a minority. A more likely course, that prices will start to firm in the autumn as winter approaches and economic activity begins (perhaps) to pick up again.

But that time is not yet here — despite even one of the severest winters ever in the world's largest oil consumer, the United States. The downward trend in prices must be beginning to worry the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose revenues are becoming increasingly dependent on the build-up of those much-valued North Sea billions.

Industry observers believe that the British market cannot support more than two large gravure printers. Although the most sensible solution would be an agreed merger of the two Watford firms, Sun and Odhams, corporate realities make that unlikely. With the three firms together losing more than £10 million a year, the rationalization is more likely to happen when one of them makes unacceptable demands on its workers and clashes down unilaterally.

New York money markets looked pretty sticky in early trade, with the Fed funds rate bouncing back up to 15 per cent. It did the same last Monday, of course, before drifting back down by mid-week.

Whether there will be a repeat performance this week remains to be seen, but foreign exchange operators — also looking over their shoulders for any new troubles in Poland — were taking no chances and pushing the dollar up to DM2.35.

Meanwhile, Sterling interest rates held more or less steady, helped by the Bank trimming its dealing rates for all but Band 1 bills. What was fascinating the market was whether the Bank was leading rates down or simply flushing out the maximum possible number of bills in the face of a £500m shortage. In short, until it is clear on the same terms today?

In short then, Fisons has dramatically improved its prospects for the next few

prospect for the next few

prospect for the next few

prospect for the next few

prospect for the next few

prospect for the next few

prospect for the next few

years at a stroke. It has raised the general quality of its earnings and this will doubtless be reflected in a sharp improvement in its current cost earnings too.

Additionally, the sale should allow greater concentration of capital spending in growth areas, while the balance sheet itself will of course look distinctly healthier. At the end of 1981 debt may well have amounted to about 75 per cent of shareholders' funds. During the course of 1982, that figure should come down to around 50 per cent.

Even after yesterday's big jump — leaving the shares roughly two-thirds up on last year's "low" — a market capitalization of some £80m may not be fully discounting recovery prospects and the improved earnings quality. Some analysts are looking for £15m pre-tax for 1982 and appreciably over £20m for 1983.

Printing

Over-capacity

The immediate crisis in the gravure printing industry may have been alleviated by last week's provisional agreement over redundancy at Reed International's Odhams in Watford. But the three main companies — Odhams, the British Printing Corporation and Sun Printers, and News International's Bemrose — are saddled with such overcapacity that a bloodbath still seems likely.

Cheaper Continental competitors have grabbed much of the mail-order catalogue business. That has left the British printers with a mass-circulation magazines, whose deadlines preclude printing abroad.

The gravure printers are also under pressure from the British companies using the rival web-offset method. Gravure has reigned supreme in mass-circulation colour printing — runs over about half a million — because it can give reasonable results on far cheaper paper. But recent advances in offset technology are closing the gap.

After a long period of under-investment the firms have recently been investing heavily in high-speed presses and computerized typesetting. However the unions have been very reluctant to shed enough manpower for them to benefit fully.

Industry observers believe that the British market cannot support more than two large gravure printers. Although the most sensible solution would be an agreed merger of the two Watford firms, Sun and Odhams, corporate realities make that unlikely. With the three firms together losing more than £10 million a year, the rationalization is more likely to happen when one of them makes unacceptable demands on its workers and clashes down unilaterally.

Fisons Changing shape

The fertilizer division has been withering Fisons' roots for some years now, so it was little surprise that the share price leapt for joy at yesterday's news that the business is being sold to Norsk-Hydro.

Fisons has, of course, been busy knocking the fertilizer division into rather better shape with some radical surgery over the past couple of years, but even though the division is now moving back into profitability, shareholders should have no reservations about the sale.

The prospect of obtaining a significant return of capital through the sale without stepping up investment was probably none too bright.

In short then, Fisons has dramatically improved its prospects for the next few

prospect for the next few

prospect for the next few

prospect for the next few

prospect for the next few

prospect for the next few

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovel Lane, London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-821 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

123	100	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	122	-1	10.0	8.2	-	-
75	62	Airspring Group	70	+1	4.7	6.8	11.0	15.4
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	45	-	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5
205	187	Barclay-Hill	205	-	9.7	4.7	10.0	12.1
104	80	Deborah Services	80	-1	6.0	7.5	4.0	7.5
130	97	Frank Horrell	129	-1	6.4	5.0	11.6	23.9
78	38	Frederick Parker	78	-	1.7	2.2	33.9	-
78	46	George Blair	50	-	-	-	-	-
102	93	IPC	95	+1	7.2	7.7	6.8	-
105	100	Isis Conv Pref	105	-	15.7	15.0	-	10.3
113	95	Jackson Group	95	-	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7
130	108	James Burroughs	113	-	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4
334	250	Robert Jenkins	250	-2	31.3	12.5	3.5	8.8
59	51	Scruttons "A"	55	-1	5.3	9.6	8.5	7.9
222	166	Torday & Carlisle	166	-1	10.7	6.4	5.3	9.9
15	18	Twinkl Ord	13 1/2	-	-	-	-	-
80	66	Twinkl 15% ULS	76	+1	15.0	19.7	-	-
44	27	Wollock Holdings	27	-	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2
192	75	Water Alexander	75	-	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7
263	212	W. S. Yeates	218	-	13.1	6.0	4.1	8.4

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. <sup>5</sup> Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

\* Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]























# De Lorean blames sales fall

Continued from page one

valuable records. "We are still suffering gross inefficiencies because of that. We were delinquent in not having second copies but we were going so fast we did not have the people to duplicate these things. It was a serious blow. It cost us an almost incalculable amount of money."

He said the car had tremendous consumer acceptance. "In November we had firm, legally enforceable, dealer orders for about 5,000 cars for the following quarter. We felt cool, calm and confident that everything was wonderful."

But then the sale of new cars dropped sharply. "Annual sales fell from 8.3 million units in November to six million in December and under six million in January. Suddenly the industry went into the ash can."

"With these firm orders we set our production schedule and started to deliver. We have never been adequately capitalised. We have always worked on the basis that as fast as we build a car we have to sell it."

"In the meantime dealers suddenly told us that with the marketing slowdown they could not take the cars."

Everybody was questioning the company's financial viability but the car was close to the quality of any car built in the world. "The worst is behind us and we need to re-evaluate the financial credibility of the company."

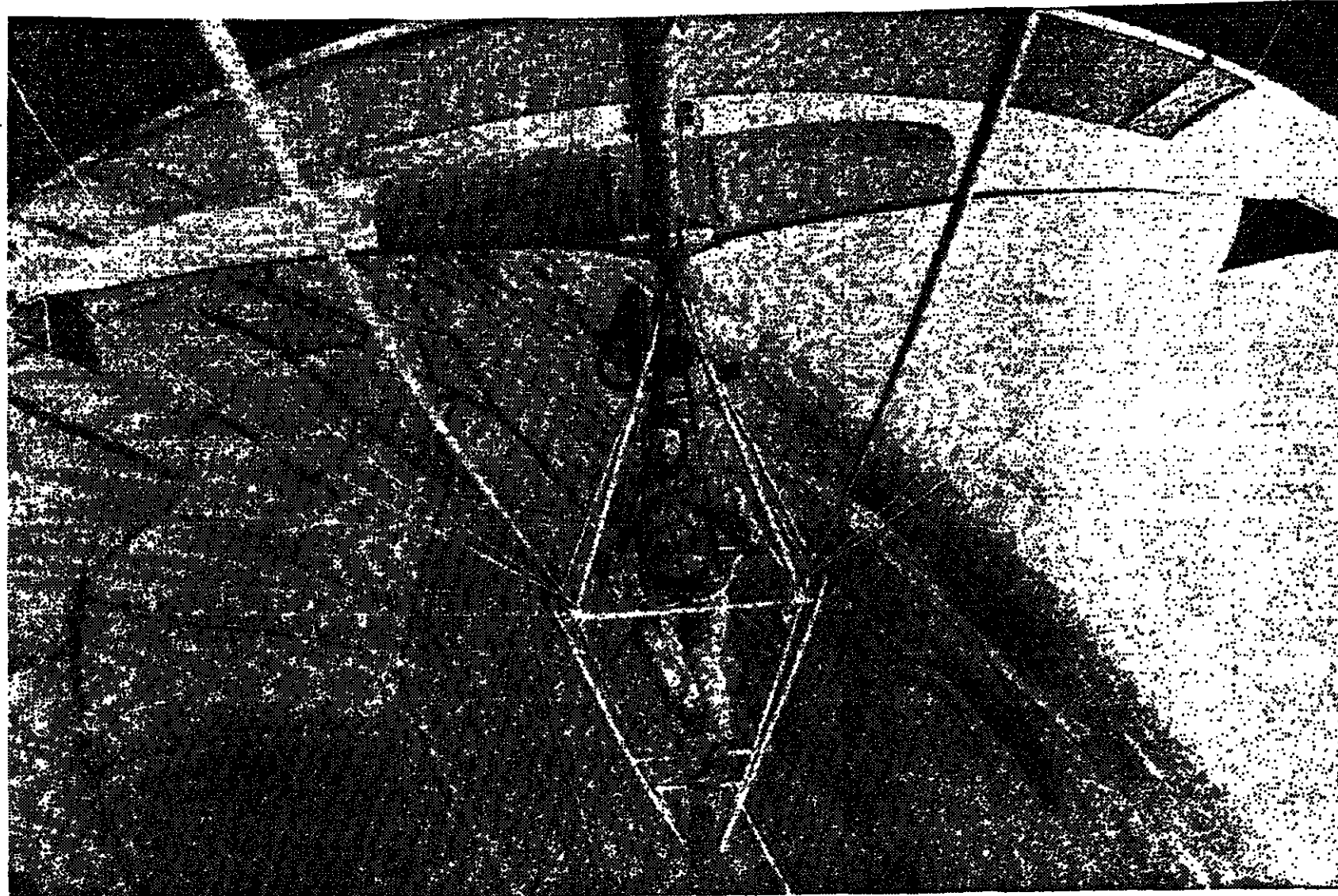
There had been misunderstandings about his personal interests. Three times he had offered to give his shares back to the Government.

The company's assets were on the balance sheet at £35m. "That is not a sick, insolvent company. It is important that if people are well on the balance sheet at £35m, the taxpayers' money they should not make statements to our continued existence."

He still hoped that a private investor would emerge to purchase or merge the company. "We are looking hard for one, for a totally non-government company so that we can fulfil the market potential. We are still getting the car, even with this terrible publicity, at the rate of 10,000 to 12,000 cars a year."

"That is more than enough to sustain the workforce we have now. With a little bit of favourable publicity there is no question in my mind that we could be employing 2,700 people again by the spring."

The company had made \$5.7m profit in the quarter ended August 31 last year and \$4m in the quarter to November 30.



Mr Ian Stokes gets to grip with the controls of an Eagle microlight aircraft over Davidstone airfield near Bodmin Moor, Cornwall.

## High flying in the bargain basement

By Ronald Faux

Private flying in Britain, depressed by high fuel costs and competition from American flying schools, could be helped by the revolution that has begun in lightweight aviation.

The Civil Aviation Authority has drawn up its proposals for the operation of microlight aircraft which leave the day-to-day running of the sport to the pilots and allow the trainees to count their hours spent in the cheap microlights towards their training for a conventional private pilot's licence. The saving in the cost of a licence could amount to more than £1,000.

Several flying schools plan to introduce the option of training on microlight aircraft as a means of bringing flying closer to the average pocket.

Microlights are the breed of aircraft that developed from the United States space programme and range from powered hang gliders to new types of rigid-wing lightweight

planes that offer exciting flying for a fraction of the normal cost.

The development is welcomed by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association and by many flying schools in Britain.

The British Microlight Aircraft Association (BMAA), the governing body of the sport, is reassured that the Civil Aviation Authority seems prepared to regulate with a soft touch and hopes to delegate responsibility for training, safety and ensuring that the small aircraft are airworthy, largely to the BMAA.

It calculates that with all the new regulations in force, flying a microlight should cost no more than £6 an hour compared with at least £40 an hour to train on a conventional aircraft, which microlight pilots are apt to refer to as "spam cans".

But because of the crowded airspace over Britain, with a plethora of controlled zones, air corridors and areas used by low flying military aircraft,

there had been fears the Government might stifle the new sport with restrictions since microlights can fly from any field that is big and flat enough and because they do not possess the range of instruments and radio found on normal planes.

Instead the Civil Aviation Authority has insisted only that pilots should be physically fit, properly trained in aviation law and flight rules and taught the technical aspects of microlight flying.

The weight and wing loading restrictions on microlight aircraft ensure that they are slow flying and likely to be very stable. New models arrive from the United States and Australia in remarkable numbers and within the limits the designers have produced aircraft able to cruise at 60 mph and climb at 1,000 ft a minute. They are single or twin seat aircraft and cost between £2,000 and £4,000.

One company dealing in a particularly lively machine begins by training pilots in a

conventional aircraft for seven or eight hours. "If we have any doubts about the person wanting to buy one of our aircraft, we keep the propeller until we are absolutely sure that he is safe", an instructor said. The new regulations that come fully into operation this year will move this responsibility largely to the BMAA.

The association's membership has risen from 400 to 1,800 in a year and the expectation is that in three years' time 5,000 pilots will be qualified or under training.

Pilot magazine, which covers business and pleasure flying, recently surveyed the microlight scene and pointed to the sharp improvements that have been made in strength, reliability and lower noise levels. "No longer can the establishment regard the BMAA as a bunch of oil-stained cloud muggers with flies stuck in their teeth", Pilot declared.

There have been accidents. Three pilots have died flying the machines in the past three

years, one because it is thought he overspooled the machine and the others because the aircraft took off incorrectly.

The microlight pilot sits strapped to his seat with the elements rushing past him; exhilarating on a fine day but impossible in cold, wind or cloud. The sport will be governed as much by the weather as the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr Roy Bott, secretary of the BMAA, claimed that the success rate in training spoke for itself. "They are slow flying machines which means that if they crash the pilot can normally walk away. The people who take up the sport are generally hang glider pilots, holders of expired private pilot's licences who cannot afford to fly on normal aircraft and people who simply take it up because they have always had a frustrated urge to fly. The spirits of Icarus and Biggles are alive and well it seems, and airborne in microlights."

## Frank Johnson in the Commons

# Lawson missile fails to vaporise Benn

Britain's nuclear power programme was the subject of the main debate yesterday.

In the opening speech, Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of Energy and reportedly one of the Cabinet hawked used a nuclear weapon on Mr Tony Benn, who was in a hard-dressed site on the Labour backbenches. Mr Benn survived.

As all those right-wing apologists for civil defence have always predicted, if Lawson were ever used many citizens would still survive.

Not that Mr Lawson would accept that he had done anything other than take out Benn as a major nuclear power. But politicians never agree as to whether, in an argument, they have been blown to bits. Mr Benn went on to make a confident speech.

The weapons system which Mr Lawson deployed was a quotation from one of Mr Benn's speeches as Secretary for Energy in 1978. Mr Benn had put in a good word for the PWR (Pressurised Water Reactor).

Since then, hysteria about even the peaceful use of nuclear power has become a recreation of the Higher Education left. So Mr Benn has changed his attitude and become much more critical of the PWR. He has to follow the polytechnic masses, for he is their leader.

At least, this is no doubt how Mr Lawson sees Mr Benn's motive. Mr Benn sees the change as part of science's never-ending quest for knowledge.

"One reason why this very important subject is not debated more frequently is that, despite all the controversy which surrounds it, there exists within the House a wide measure of agreement," Mr Lawson said. That was his countdown.

Mr Lawson added that, "for example", it was his predecessor as Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Member for Bristol SE, who had said something to say on the subject in 1978.

Whereupon, he quoted Mr Benn as having said that "we must develop the option of adopting the PWR system in the early 1980s" and that the electricity supply industry's intention of ordering a PWR station "is endorsed by the Government".

Amid this blast, Mr Benn sat on the backbench. With sublime courage, he continued to take notes, his eyes

never meeting Mr Lawson's. He said, "I welcome the present Secretary of State's explanation of the Government's policy on nuclear power," he added. This final cloud of ironic fallout enveloped Mr Benn to no apparent effect. He continued remorselessly at the notes.

Mr Lawson went on to celebrate the efficiency and safety of nuclear power, with much mention of kilowatt hours of electricity and similar matters with which the boffins had stuffed his head. He sat down.

Mr Merlyn Rees, the Shadow Secretary of Energy, rose to give the official policy of the Labour Party on the subject Mr Rees was just the man to make this clear - that is, to make it opaque. He tends to end his sentences so long that they make Gibbon sound like the leader column of the Daily Express. Sometimes the sentences are never finished. Sometimes Rees sentence gets better before the end, turns around and greets itself on the way back.

Sometimes Mr Rees appears up one of his own sentences. He says, "I am sure to have any effect as his quality as a politician. He is a perfectly satisfactory minister. His career is living proof of the pulled-up claim of mere, meretricious eloquence."

Mr Rees embroiled himself in his speech for half an hour without any of us understanding a word of his true beliefs about these dark subjects. For a Labour Energy spokesman, with access to the Government's policies and the passions of the left, to satisfy nuclear policy is too serious a matter to be left to chance.

Finally, Mr Benn, in an eloquent speech would have delighted the polytechnic left, who seem to regard Mr Benn as a man who is being as warlike as Poles as well as the miners who prefer to be pressurised with cash rather than with water.

"The Secretary of State quite fairly referred to my speech of 1978", he casually observed in parenthesis. But then when the situation was different. New information became available at 1979, he conveniently added, which was just as well since that was the year Labour went into Opposition.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Prince of Wales opens new gallery at Crafts Council, 12 Waterloo Place, 11.30, and with the Princess of Wales attends dinner at 11 Downing Street in connection with British Film Institute, 8.15.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother opens Canada House Cultural Centre, 6.45.

Princess Michael of Kent opens exhibition of paintings, sculpture and crafts, Mall Galleries, The Mall, SW1, 11.30.

**Exhibitions**  
Paintings of the sea and coast, Hove Museum of Art, 19 New Church Road, Hove, 10 to 1 and 2 to 5.

Aberdeen Artists' Society Annual Exhibition, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, 10 to 5.

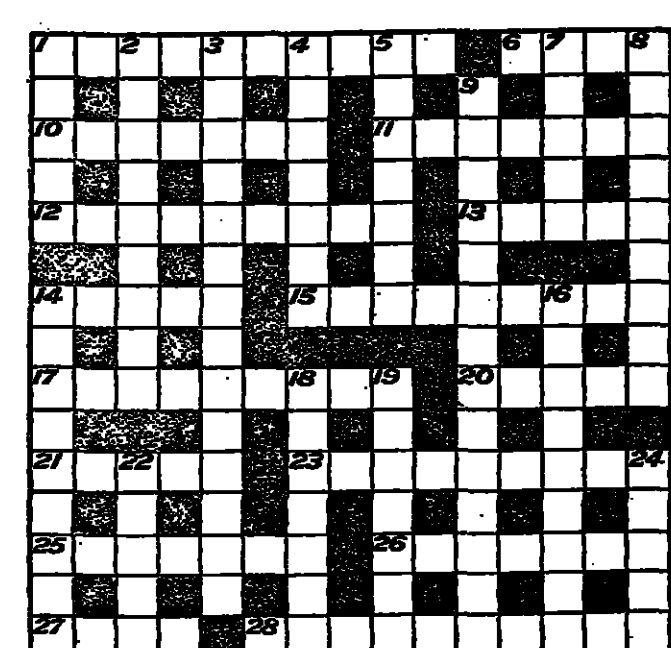
A Glimpse of the Past - local views from old photographs, Stafford Museum and Art Gallery, 10 to 5.

Paints and plastic jewelry, Arncliffe, Narrow Quay, Bristol, 11 to 8.

Old Master drawings by Willem van der Velde, the Elder and Younger, Sotheby's, 42 Holden Road, Bournemouth, 10 to 4.30.

**Music**  
Haydn's "The Creation", Northern Sinfonia of England, Town Hall, Middlesbrough, 7.45.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,745



Henceforth words joined by elision will be clues as one word. Thus "Bob's your uncle" (4,4,5), instead of (3,1,4,5).

**ACROSS**  
1 Fringe benefit for retired salesman is quite extraordinary (10).  
6 The Boy Friend heard in East London (4).  
10 Object to sort of mice found locally (7).  
11 Hung around with low church journalists (7).  
12 Main list shows silly asses about equal (5,4).  
13 Johnson's papers indicate more unemployment (5).  
14 Sadly, I've no last words to the dedicatees (5).  
15 One living abroad has no right to speak freely (9).  
17 Mangled messiness I find stupid (9).  
20 Penetrate part of forbidden territory (5).  
21 Advertisement for a jacket dressed in (9).  
23 In reading anarchy is deep-rooted (9).  
25 With which to coat the joints of pot? (7).  
26 Legs of travellers in the van (7).  
27 Area of land once used by a bird-watcher (4).  
28 Book-keeper (or song-writer with a French accent?) (10).

**DOWN**  
1 How over-keen golfers use iron (5).  
2 I'd survive catastrophe and come to life again (9).  
3 There's no possibility of reference to (8,14).

### Solution of Puzzle No. 15,744

ACROSS  
1. BIRD  
6. BOY  
10. MICE  
11. JOURNALISTS  
12. SILLY  
13. JOHNSON  
14. SADDY  
15. ABROAD  
17. MESSY  
20. PENETRATE  
21. JACKET  
23. ANARCHY  
25. POT  
26. VAN  
27. BIRD  
28. BOOK-KEEPER

DOWN  
1. IRON  
2. SURVIVE  
3. REFERENCE

### Travel today

Pre-recorded travel information on Traveline - call 01-246-8030; road: 01-246-8031; sea: 01-246-8032; air: 01-246-8033.

**Rail**  
Because of a second landslide at Barkston, Lincolnshire, main London to Newcastle, Edinburgh, Aberdeen line is closed between Peterborough and Doncaster. Trains diverted via Lincoln, adding minutes to journey times. For bus shuttle services from stations cut off (Retford, Newark and Grantham). Line should be clear by early next week.

**Roads**  
Midlands and E Anglia: A40: Only one lane open at St Oswalds Road, Gloucester. A5: With reduced to Kilsby and Cowthorpe, Northamptonshire. A33: Road works at Darley Abbey, Derbyshire.

**North: M15-M180:** Only one lane open at Humberidge. A64: Road works at Bramham, Yorkshire.

**Wales and West:** A30: Temporary lights at Fenny Bridges between Honiton and Exeter. A4: With reduced to Bath Road, Bristol. A483: Road works at Llanbister, Powys.

**Scotland:** A519: Road works N of Inveraray. A742: Temporary lights between Greenock and Inverkip. A701: Delays on John Street, Penicik.

Information supplied by the A.A.

**Sea**  
Because of Sealink dispute, no Newhaven/Dieppe ferries operating. For special coaches to ports during rail disruption, call 01-928 4142 or 01-834 2345, or Sealink offices at ports.

**Air**  
Ferry services to and from Guernsey now back to normal after recent dispute.

**Parliament today**  
Commons (2.30): Coal Industry Bill, second reading. New Towns Bill, remaining stages.

Lords (2.30): Currency Bill, remaining stages. Social Security (Contributions) Bill, remaining stages. Civic Government (Scotland) Bill, committee, fourth day.

**Anniversaries**  
Births: Nell Gwyn, London, 1650; Charles Talleyrand, Paris, 1754; David Livingstone, Scotland, 1813; James Joyce, Dublin, 1882; Palestine died in Rome, 1934. George III opened first session of the first Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801.

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### TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending January 24:

- 1 The Two Ronnies
- 2 Jim'll Fix It
- 3 Last of the Summer Wine
- 4 Dallas
- 5 Hunters are for Killing
- 6 Police
- 7 Holiday
- 8 Shoestring
- 9 Nanny
- 10 Terry and June

- 1 Pot Black 82
- 2 Grace Kennedy
- 3 Arena
- 4 The Bell (Wed & Sun)
- 5 Australian Film Season
- 6 Newsworld
- 7 Portage
- 8 The Waltons
- 9 M\*A\*S\*H
- 10 Three of a Kind

- 1 This is Your Life (Thames)
- 2 Coronation Street (Wed) (Granada)
- 3 Coronation Street (Mon)
- 4 Family Fortunes (Central)
- 5 London Night Out (Thames)
- 6 Wish You Were Here (Thames)
- 7 Let There Be Love (Thames)
- 8 Play Your Cards Right (LWT)
- 9 The Professionals (ITV)
- 10 The Gentle Touch (LWT)

British Audience Research Board

### Classical best sellers

Best-selling records last week were:

1. Paganini - Violin Concertos (DG2536416)
2. Strauss: Alpine Symphony (DG2536015)
3. Karajan: Don Giovanni (DG2536019)
4. Karajan: Hyperion (DG2536021)
5. Monteverdi: Sacred Music (Decca DSLO 494)
6. Daphnis and Chloé - Dutoit (Decca SXDL7526)
7. Holst: Planets - Karajan (DG2536019)
8. Schubert: Secular Vocal Music (HMV SLSS220)
9. Joan Sutherland Recital (Decca GRV.0)

### The pound

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.77	1.69	
Austria Sch	32.15	30.15	
Belgium Fr	85.00	81.00	
Canada \$	1.22	1.13	
Denmark Dkr	14.85	14.15	
Finland Mk	8.73	8.28	
France Fr	11.55	10.95	
Germany DM	4.55	4.30	
Greece Dr	124.00	115.00	
Hong Kong \$	11.30	10.70	
Ireland Pt	1.28	1.23	
Italy Lit	2425.00	2335.00	
Japan Yen	468.00	452.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.98	4.72	
Norway Kr	11.54	10.94	
Portugal Esc	133.00	125.00	
South Africa R	2.02	1.87	
Spain Ptas	165.00	158.00	
Sweden Kr	11.12	10.54	
Switzerland Fr	3.64	3.42	
USA \$	1.93	1.80	
Yugoslavia Dnr	100.00	95.00	

Notes: All small denominations bank notes only, on stippling, security, etc. Rates for travellers' cheques and other foreign currency, etc. are available from the Bank of England.

London: The FT Index fell 7.8 to 572.0.

### Weather

Mild S airstream will persist over British Isles as frontal troughs clear northwards from N Ireland and Scotland.

#### 6 am to midnight

London, SE, E Anglia, E Anglia, Chas and Wales: Mild, dry, cloudy at times, some sunny spells. Wind S, moderate, locally fresh; max temp 7 or 8C (45 or 46F).

Central S, SW England: Cloudy, occasional drizzle on hills, wind S, moderate or strong, max temp 9 or 10C (48 or 50F).

Midlands, Central N, NE England: Mainly dry, rather cloudy, some brighter intervals. Wind S, moderate, locally fresh; max temp 9 or 10C (48 or 50F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Cloudy with occasional drizzle on hills, wind S or SW fresh, locally strong; max temp 9 or 10C (48 or 50F).

Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands: Mainly cloudy, light rain or drizzle in places, wind mainly S, increasing moderate or strong; max temp 9 or 10C (48 or 50F).

North East Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: Mainly cloudy, light rain or drizzle in places, wind S or SW, fresh or strong, locally gale force; max temp 9 or 10C (48 or 50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Continues mild with occasional rain or drizzle, chiefly in W.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind S light or moderate, increasing fresh later; sea slight, becoming moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea, Wind S moderate or fresh, increasing strong or gale later; sea moderate increasing rough or very rough.

Sea: Sun 7.38 am, Sat 6.51 am. Moon sets 1.30 am, Moon rises 11.30 am. Full moon February 6.

### Lighting up time

London 5.21 pm to 7.05 pm  
Bristol 5.31 pm to 7.16 pm  
Edinburgh 5.18 pm to 7.34 pm  
Manchester 5.23 pm to 7.21 am  
Penzance 5.47 pm to 7.34 pm

### Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, fair.

Belfast	C 9.48	F 49.86
Birmingham	C 9.48	F 49.86
Blackpool	C 9.48	F 49.86
Bristol	C 9.48	F 49.86
Cardiff	C 9.48	F 49.86
Edinburgh	C 9.48	F 49.86
Glasgow	C 9.48	F 49.86

### Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: Kilsyth, 12C (54F).  
Lowest day temp: Lowestoft, 6C (43F).  
Highest rainfall: Preston, 0.28in. Highest sunshine: Stornoway, 2.3hr.

### Satellite predictions

Figures give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of passing. Asterisk denotes entering or leaving orbit.

MANCHESTER: Comet 122n 19.50-19.55; WSW; 40W; 10C; 30.34-30.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 5.45-5.55; S; 40S; SE; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 5.55-6.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 6.05-6.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 6.15-6.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 6.25-6.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 6.35-6.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 6.45-6.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 6.55-7.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 7.05-7.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 7.15-7.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 7.25-7.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 7.35-7.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 7.45-7.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 7.55-8.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 8.05-8.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 8.15-8.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 8.25-8.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 8.35-8.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 8.45-8.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 8.55-9.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 9.05-9.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 9.15-9.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 9.25-9.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 9.35-9.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 9.45-9.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 9.55-10.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 10.05-10.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 10.15-10.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 10.25-10.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 10.35-10.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 10.45-10.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 10.55-11.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 11.05-11.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 11.15-11.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 11.25-11.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 11.35-11.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 11.45-11.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 11.55-12.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 12.05-12.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 12.15-12.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 12.25-12.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 12.35-12.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 12.45-12.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 12.55-13.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 13.05-13.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 13.15-13.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 13.25-13.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 13.35-13.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 13.45-13.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 13.55-14.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 14.05-14.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 14.15-14.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 14.25-14.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 14.35-14.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 14.45-14.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 14.55-15.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 15.05-15.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 15.15-15.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 15.25-15.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 15.35-15.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 15.45-15.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 15.55-16.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 16.05-16.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 16.15-16.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 16.25-16.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 16.35-16.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 16.45-16.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 16.55-17.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 17.05-17.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 17.15-17.25; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 17.25-17.35; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 17.35-17.45; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 17.45-17.55; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 17.55-18.05; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 236n (Feb 3) 18.05-18.15; NW; 15W; NW; Comet 23